



THORCAL

Beyond the Shadows

ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME



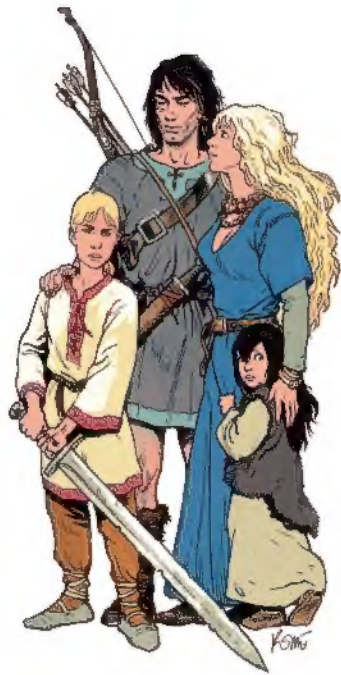
Rosinski 83

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Beyond the Shadows





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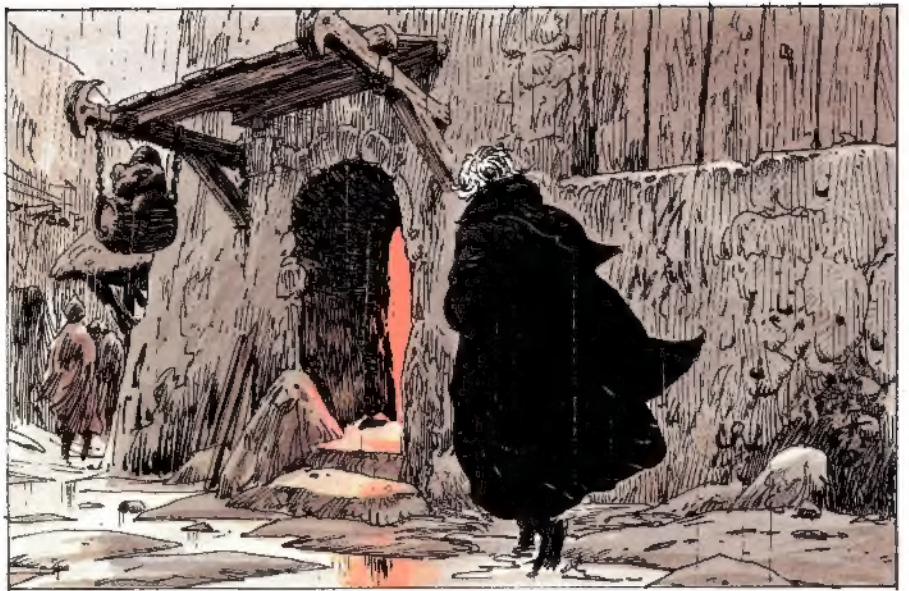
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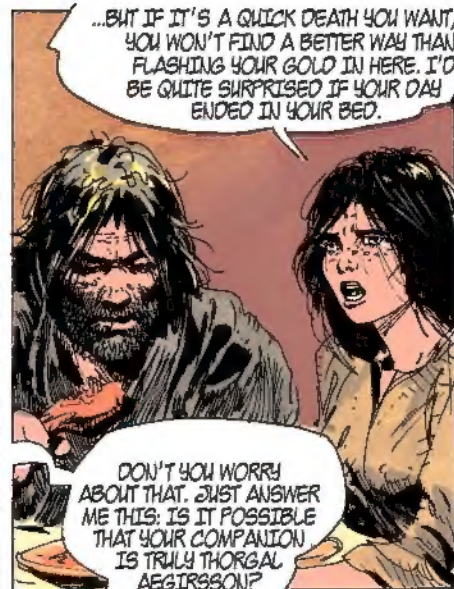








I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE AFTER,
STRANGER...



...BUT IF IT'S A QUICK DEATH YOU WANT,
YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER WAY THAN
FLASHING YOUR GOLD IN HERE. I'D
BE QUITE SURPRISED IF YOUR DAY
ENDED IN YOUR BED.

DON'T YOU WORRY
ABOUT THAT. JUST ANSWER
ME THIS: IS IT POSSIBLE
THAT YOUR COMPANION
IS TRULY THORAL
AEGIRSSON?



THAT WAS HIS
NAME, YES... A LONG
TIME AGO.

IT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE
THAT THIS IS
THE MAN I'VE
BEEN TOLD
ABOUT...



...BUT THERE'S ONE FOOL-
PROOF WAY TO TELL.

HEY!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



BY ALL THE GOOS
OF MUSPELLSHEIM,
THAT'S IT:
THE KEY TO
THE SECOND
WORLD!!



INCREDIBLE! THIS FLEA-RIDDEN
VAGABOND IS INDEED THE LAST
CHILD OF THE STARS!... THE ONLY
MORTAL TO HAVE COME BACK FROM
THE SECOND WORLD AFTER MANAGING
TO LEARN ITS SECRET!...

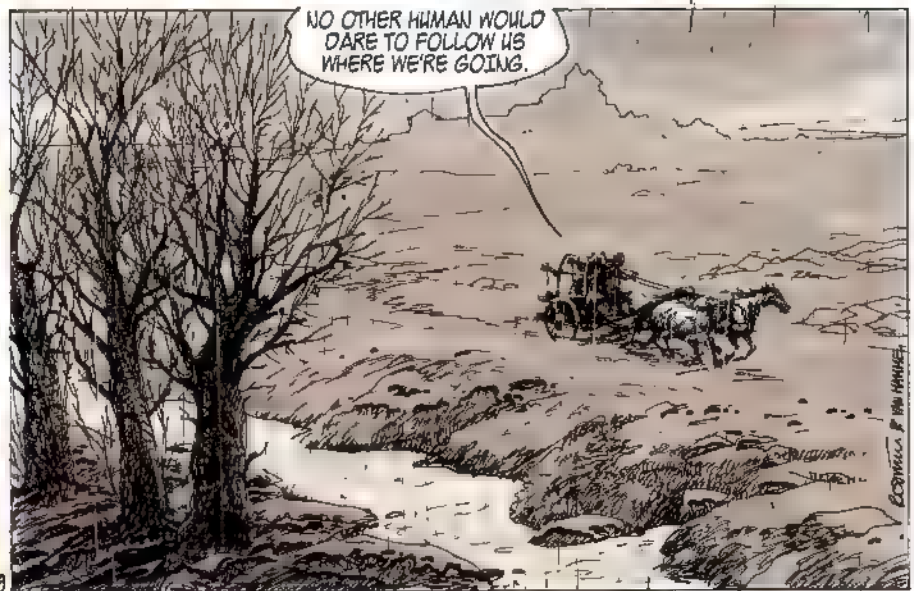
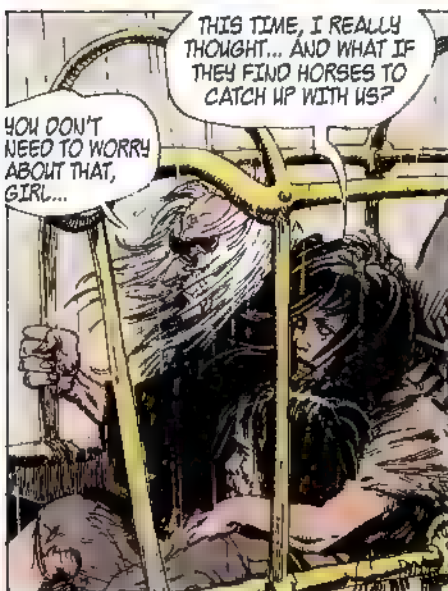
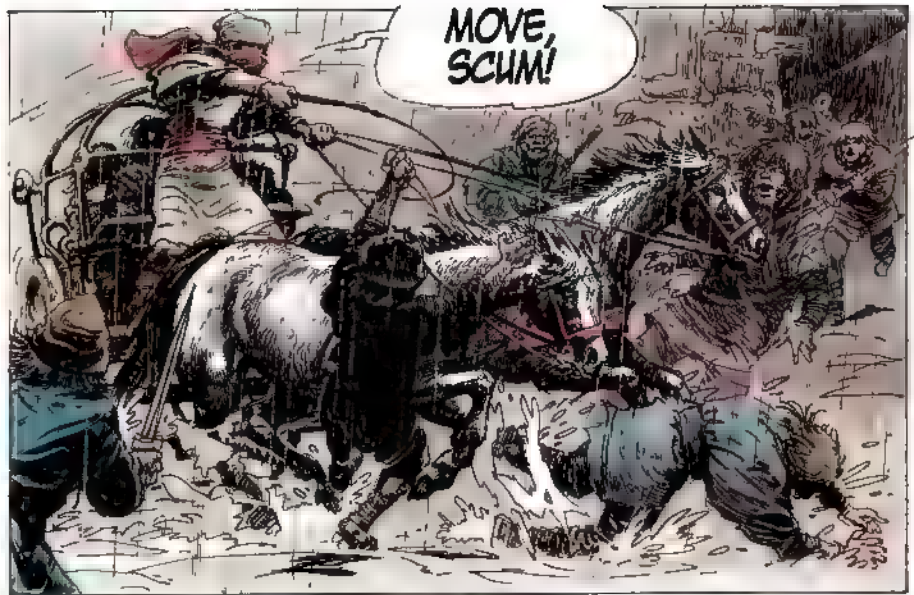
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT? I DON'T UNDER-
STAND A WORD OF WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING...

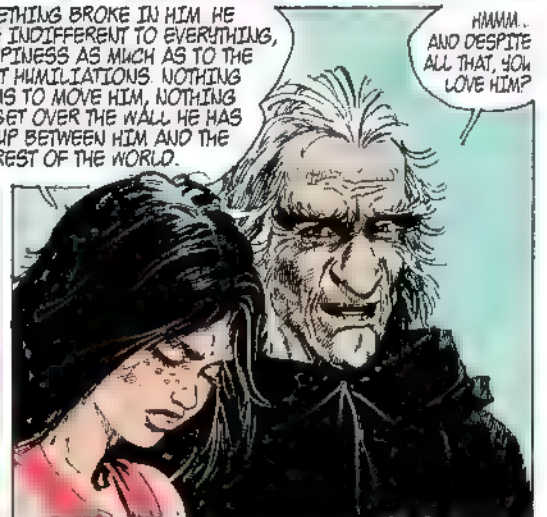
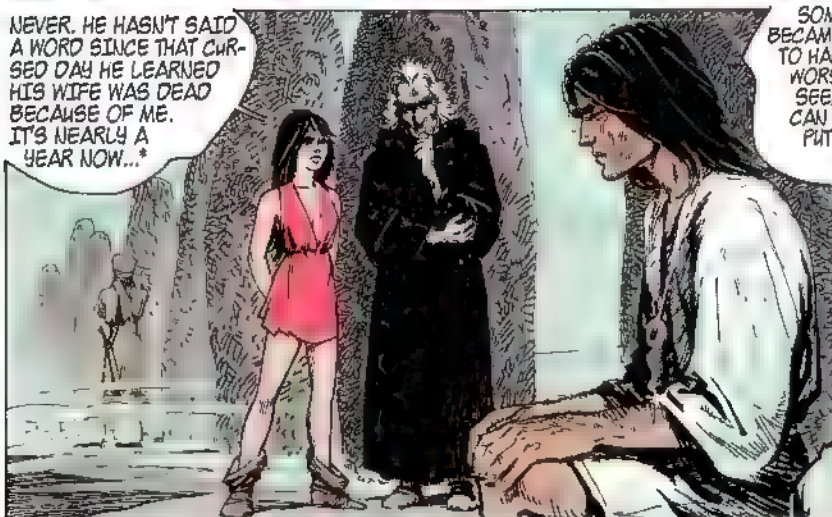


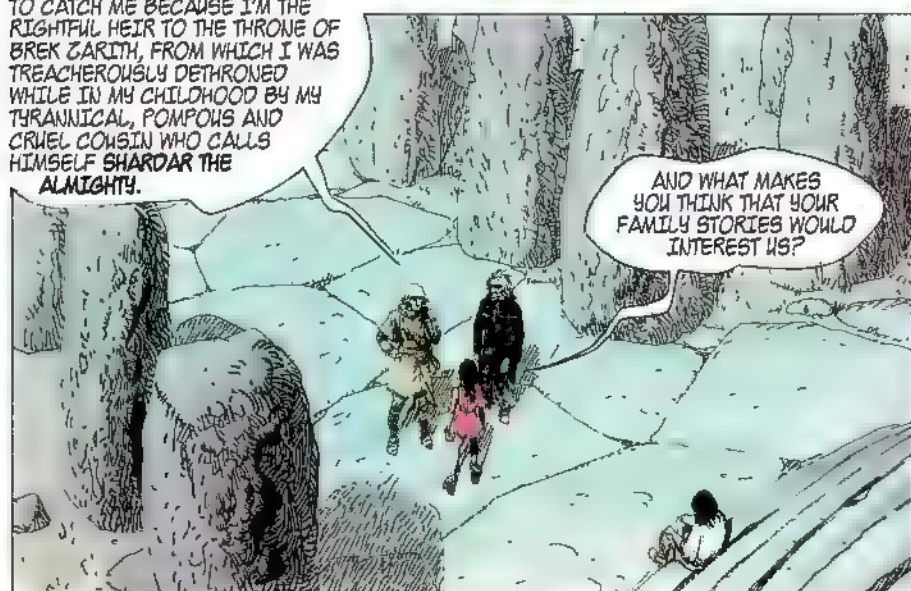
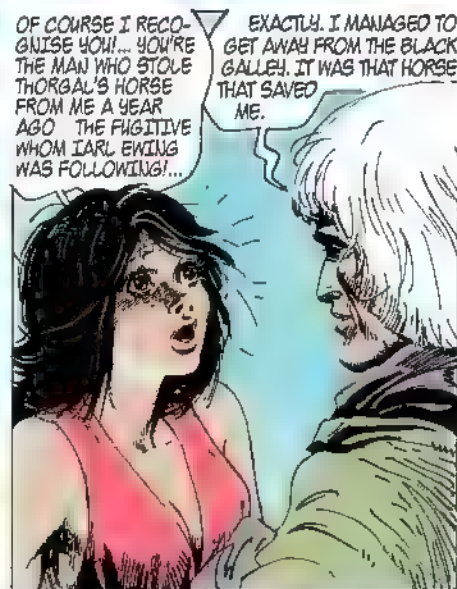
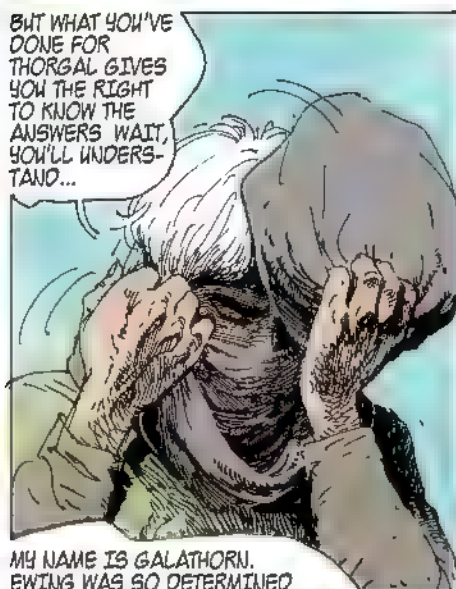
ME NEITHER, BUT I'M
INTERESTED ALL THE SAME.
I'VE GOT A WEAKNESS
FOR PRECIOUS
THINGS...







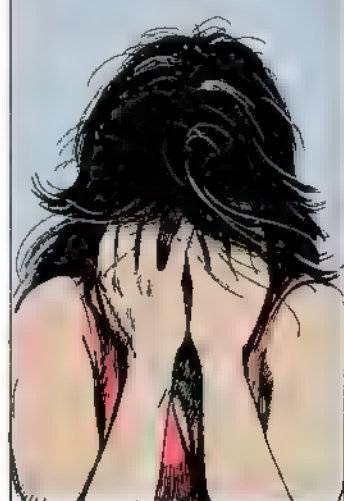




HAHAHAHAHA!
THAT'S SO FUNNY!...



JUST LOOK AT HIM,
YOUR HERO! LOOK
HOW READY HE IS TO
CONQUER A KINGDOM!
BECAUSE OF YOU...
BECAUSE OF ME...



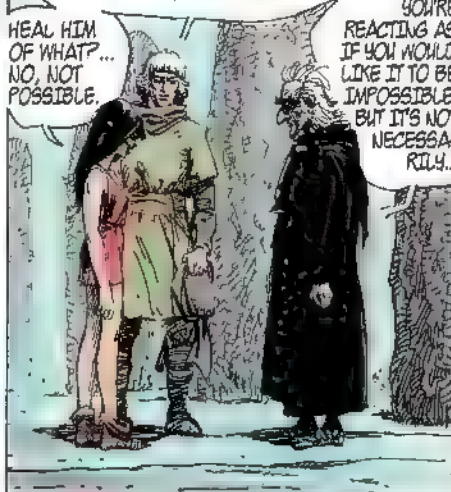
LISTEN,
GIRL...

SHUT UP! SHUT UP
AND GO! GET OUT OF
HERE! LEAVE US IN OUR
UNHAPPY PEACE! IT'S GOT
NOTHING TO DO WITH
YOU FROM NOW ON...



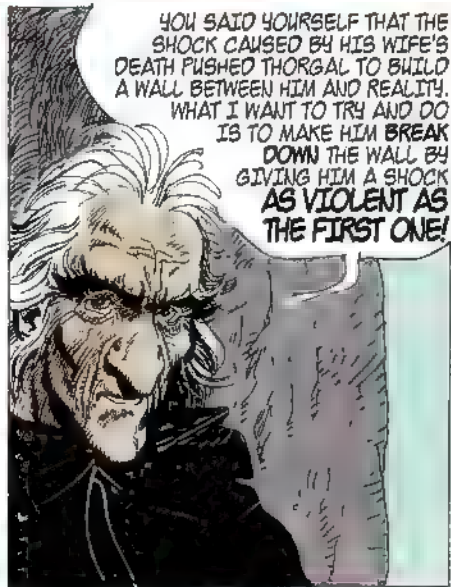
CALM DOWN, SHANIAH WE'RE ONLY
TRYING TO HELP THORGAL SO HE CAN
HELP US. STARTING WITH TRYING
TO HEAL HIM

HEAL HIM
OF WHAT?...
NO, NOT
POSSIBLE.

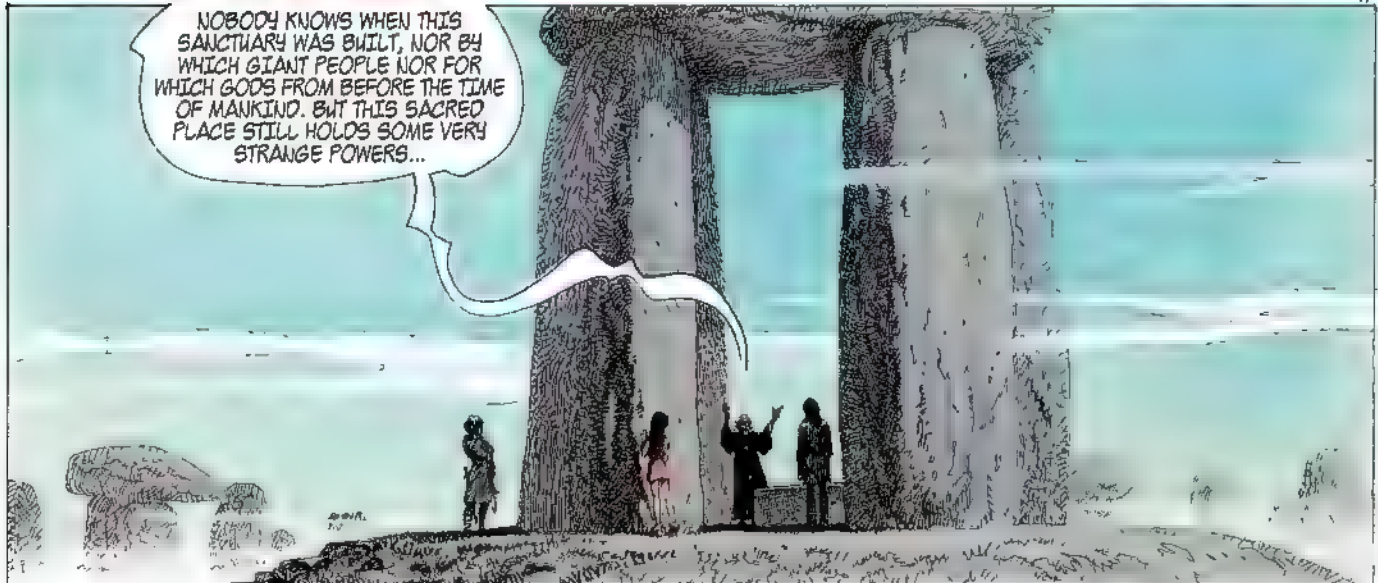


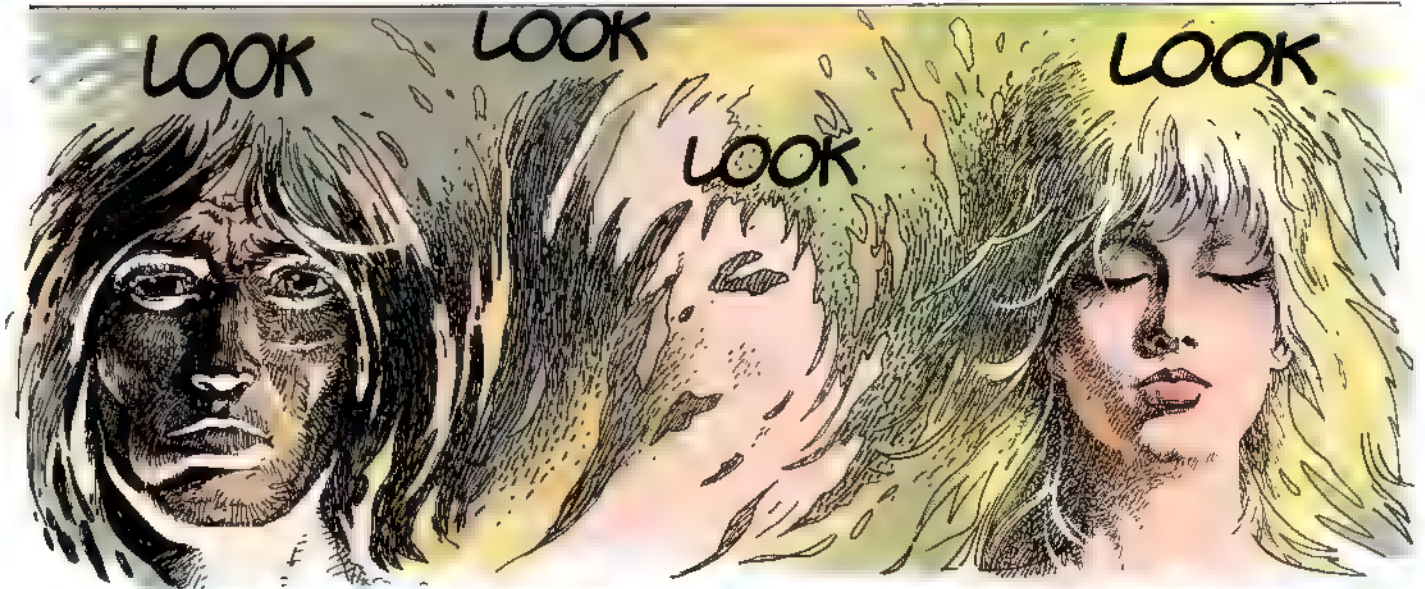
YOU'RE
REACTING AS
IF YOU WOULD
LIKE IT TO BE
IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT IT'S NOT
NECESSA-
RILY...

YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT THE
SHOCK CAUSED BY HIS WIFE'S
DEATH PUSHED THORGAL TO BUILD
A WALL BETWEEN HIM AND REALITY.
WHAT I WANT TO TRY AND DO
IS TO MAKE HIM **BREAK**
DOWN THE WALL BY
GIVING HIM A SHOCK
AS VIOLENT AS
THE FIRST ONE!



NOBODY KNOWS WHEN THIS
SANCTUARY WAS BUILT, NOR BY
WHICH GIANT PEOPLE NOR FOR
WHICH GODS FROM BEFORE THE TIME
OF MANKIND. BUT THIS SACRED
PLACE STILL HOLDS SOME VERY
STRANGE POWERS...







DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, THORGAL, THEY'RE LYING. THEY'RE ONLY TRYING TO TORTURE YOU BY OPENING OLD WOUNDS...

WARGAN SPEAKS THE TRUTH, SHANIAH. HIS WIFE IS ALIVE.

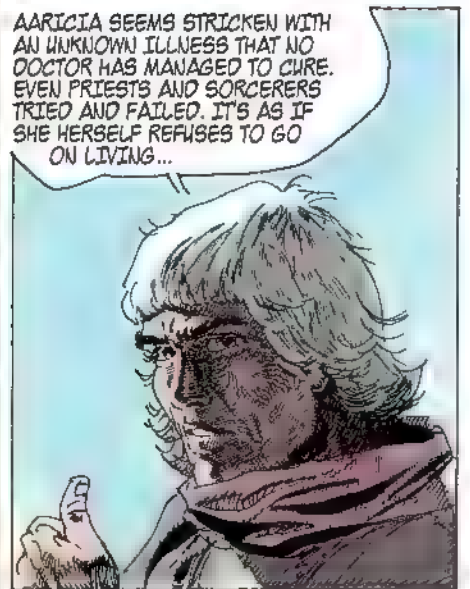


THAT'S... NOT TRUE... IMPOSSIBLE... WHERE WOULD SHE BE?

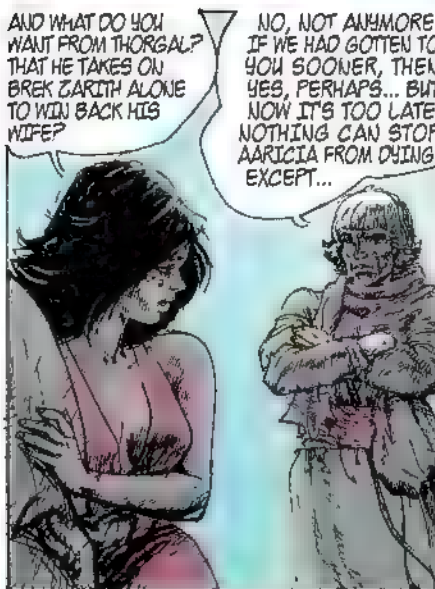
IN BREK ZARITH. I KNOW FROM A TRUSTWORTHY SOURCE. BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT OUR TIME IS SHORT. AARICIA IS STILL ALIVE, BUT NOT FOR LONG. SHE WAS PICKED UP NEAR THE COAST OF YOUR VILLAGE BY ONE OF SHARDAR'S VESSELS THAT WAS OUT TO FIND ME. SHE WAS HALF DROWNED AND JUST ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH... THE VESSEL TOOK HER TO THE ROYAL BREK ZARITH COURT.



BUT SHE NEVER RECOVERED. AFTER HAVING GIVEN BIRTH TO HER CHILD, SHE GOT WORSE. SHARDAR KNEW NOTHING ABOUT HER YET TRIED EVERYTHING TO MAKE HER BETTER. IN VAIN.

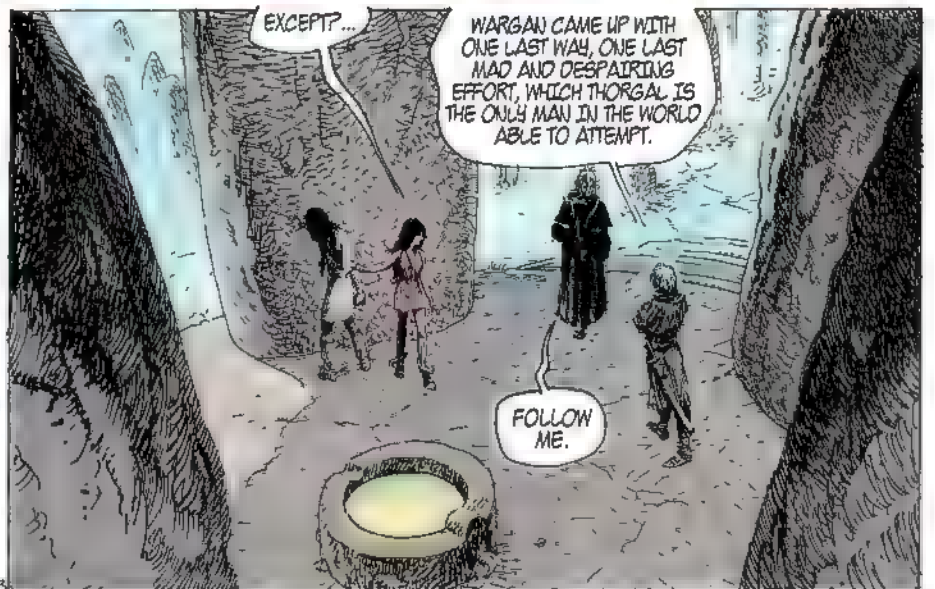


AARICIA SEEMS STRICKEN WITH AN UNKNOWN ILLNESS THAT NO DOCTOR HAS MANAGED TO CURE. EVEN PRIESTS AND SORCERERS TRIED AND FAILED. IT'S AS IF SHE HERSELF REFUSES TO GO ON LIVING...



AND WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THORGAL? THAT HE TAKES ON BREK ZARITH ALONE TO WIN BACK HIS WIFE?

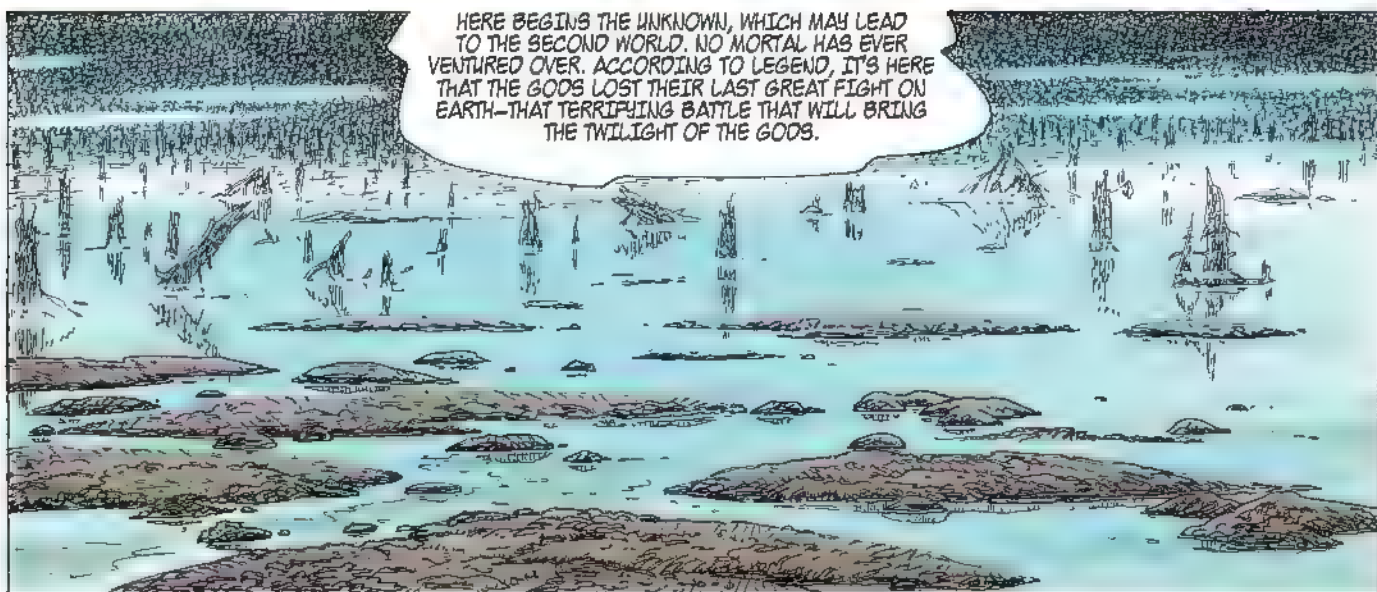
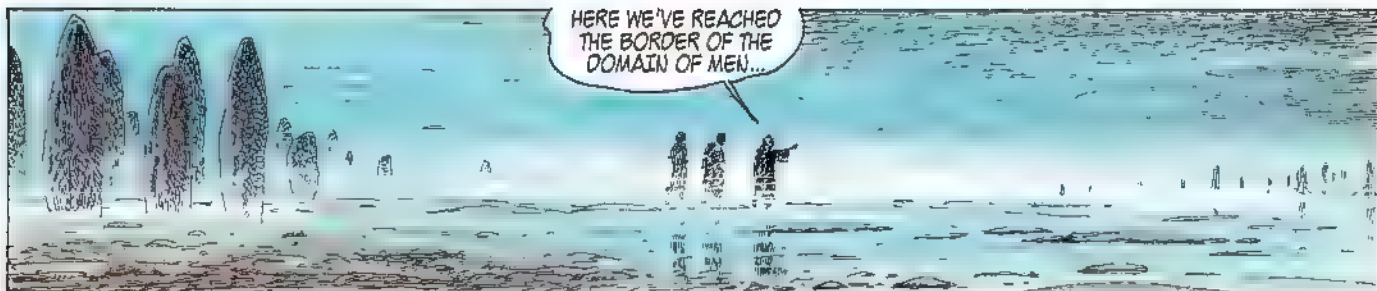
NO, NOT ANYMORE. IF WE HAD GOTTEN TO YOU SOONER, THEN YES, PERHAPS... BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE. NOTHING CAN STOP AARICIA FROM DYING. EXCEPT...



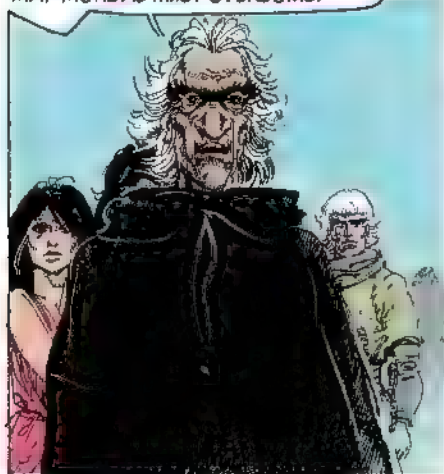
EXCEPT...

WARGAN CAME UP WITH ONE LAST WAY, ONE LAST MAD AND DESPAIRING EFFORT, WHICH THORGAL IS THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD ABLE TO ATTEMPT.

FOLLOW ME.



AND WHEN THE GODS RETIRED, THEY RAISED INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES BETWEEN THEM AND MEN, OF WHICH WE KNOW NOTHING YET. IT'S THESE OBSTACLES THAT THORGAL MUST OVERCOME.



SINCE BIRTH HE HAS RECEIVED THE SIGNS THAT THE GODS BESTOW ON THOSE WHOM THEY CHOOSE TO FAVOUR WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL DESTINY. AND HE POSSESSES THE KEY TO THE SECOND WORLD. HE ALONE WOULD HAVE A SMALL HOPE OF SUCCEEDING...



WHEN HUMAN STRENGTH CAN NO LONGER SAVE SOMEONE FROM CERTAIN DEATH, ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS TO BOW BEFORE THE UNKNOWN ENTITIES WHO HOLD THAT PERSON'S EXISTENCE IN THEIR HANDS.



SO IT'S NOT TO THE SECOND WORLD THAT THORGAL MUST GO TO SAVE AARICIA, BUT, **BEYOND THAT, TO DEATH ITSELF!**



YOU... YOU'RE
MAD! YOUR WORDS
DON'T MAKE ANY
SENSE!

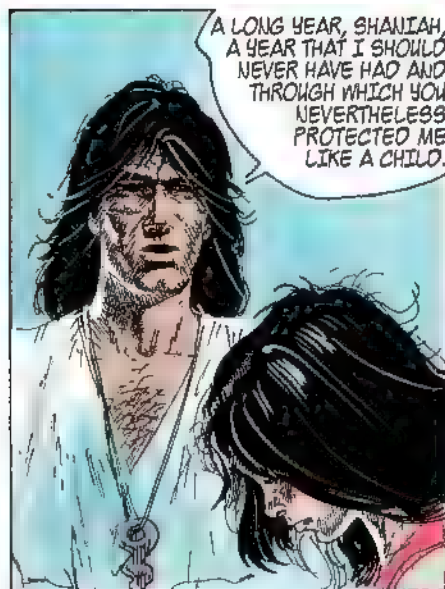
THEY DID
TO ME,
SHANIAH.



THORGAL!!
YOU... YOU'RE TALKING?!
YOU'RE ALIVE?!



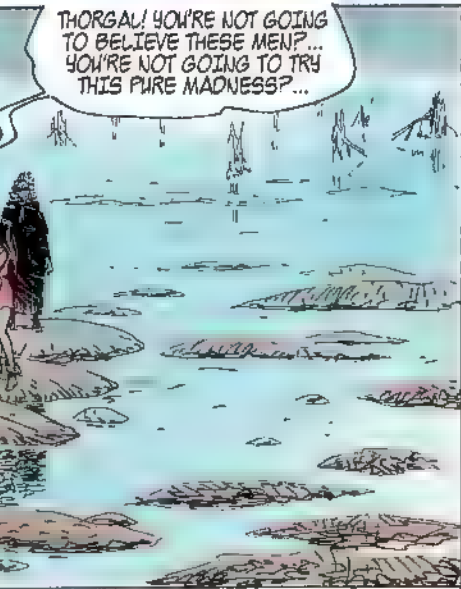
I'M ALIVE AGAIN,
SHANIAH. FINALLY EMER-
GING FROM A LONG NIGHT-
MARE WHERE SOMEONE
ELSE HAD TAKEN
OVER MY BODY.



A LONG YEAR, SHANIAH,
A YEAR THAT I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE HAD AND
THROUGH WHICH YOU
NEVERTHELESS
PROTECTED ME
LIKE A CHILD.



BUT I CAN SEE THE SKY AGAIN...
I CAN HEAR YOUR VOICES... AND
EVEN IF THERE'S ONLY A BREATH
OF EXISTENCE LEFT IN HER,
AARTICA IS ALIVE! TODAY,
WARGAN, YOU'VE SAVED
ME TWICE OVER.



THORGAL! YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO BELIEVE THESE MEN?...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY
THIS PURE MADNESS? ...

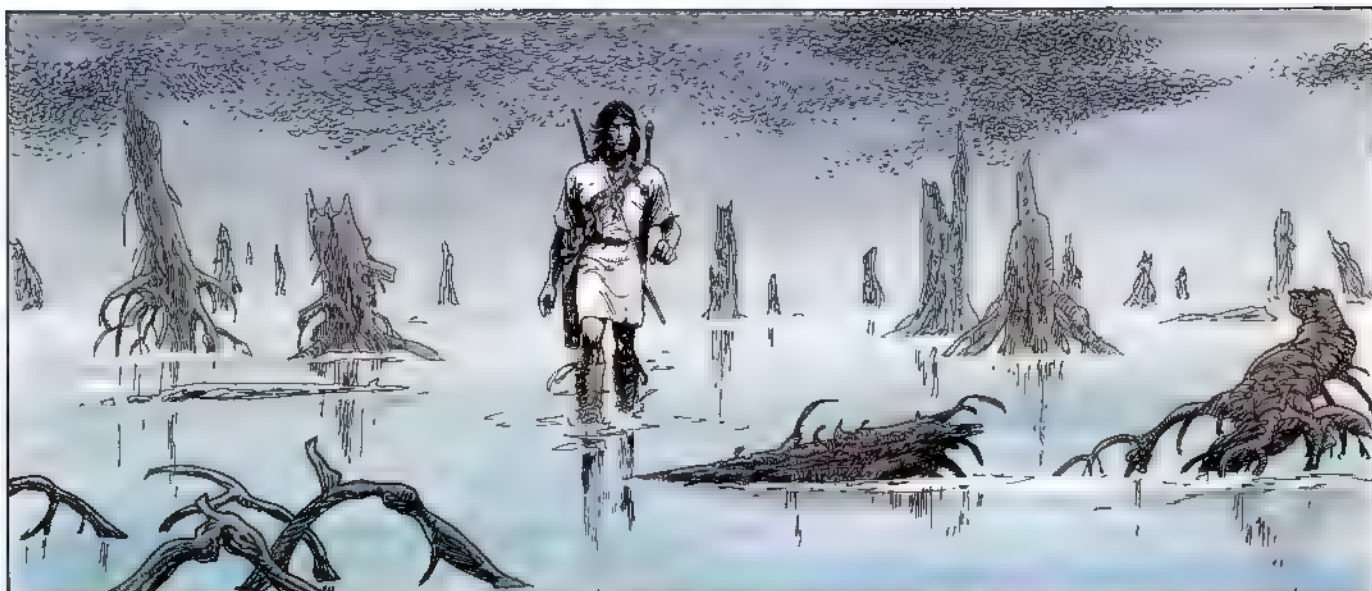


YES, I BELIEVE THEM.
DESTINY HAS GIVEN THEM
THE ONLY REASON STRONG
ENOUGH TO PUSH ME TO
HELP THEM TAKE BACK THEIR
KINGDOM. AND, I HAVE
NOTHING TO LOSE.



SO I ACCEPT YOUR IDEA AND
YOUR DEAL, PRINCE GALATHORN:
**I'LL GO BEYOND
THE SECOND
WORLD!**

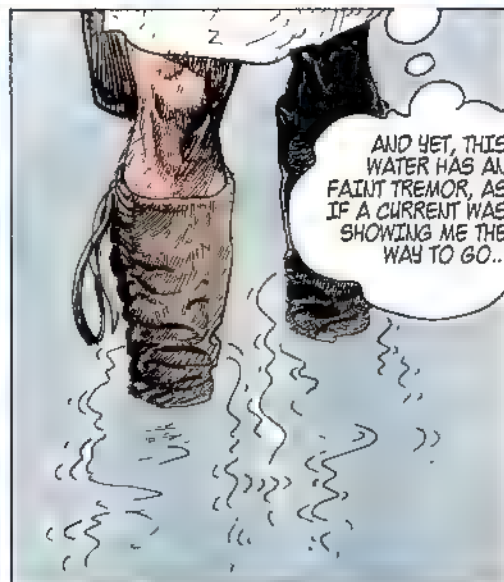
Boothby & van Houten



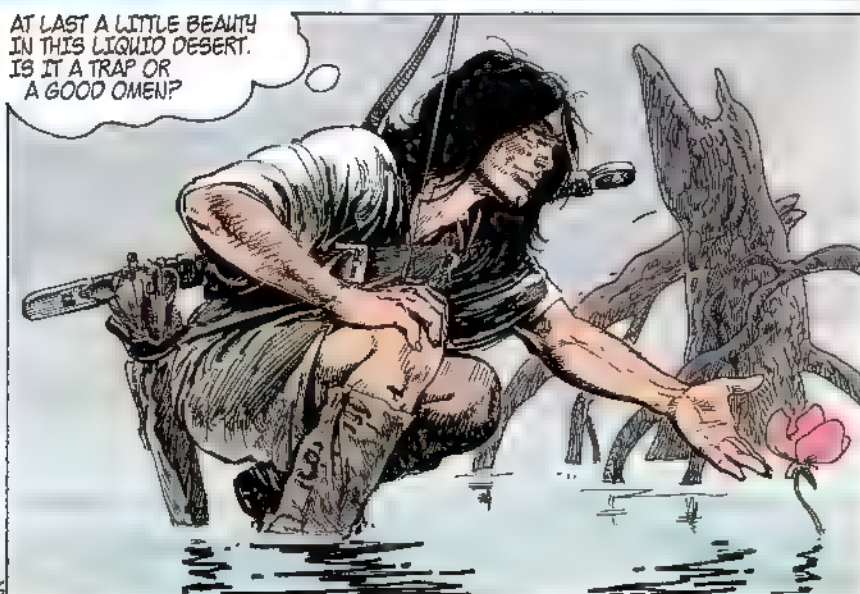
NOT THE SMALLEST
SIGN OF LIFE... NOT
BIRD, NOR INSECT,
NOR PLANT...
NOTHING.



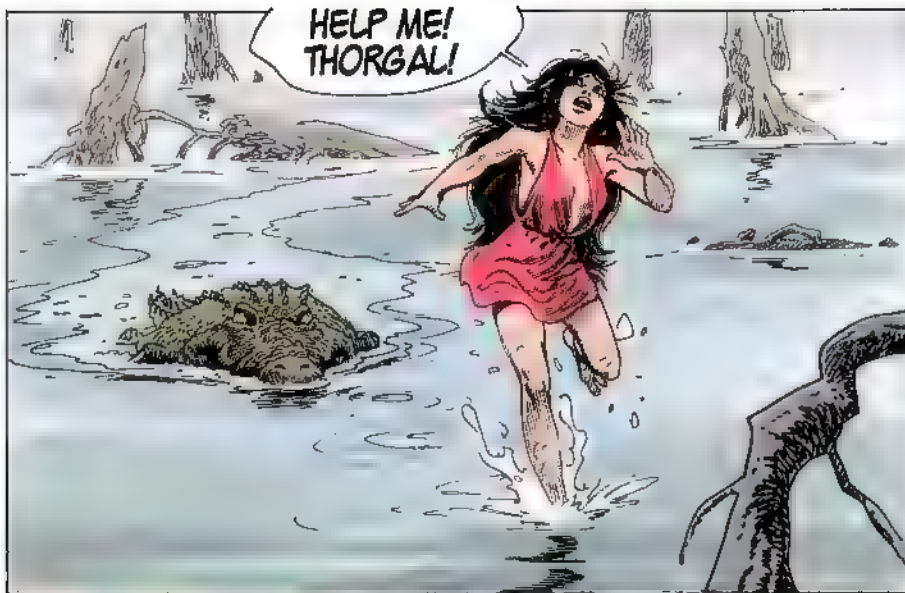
AND YET, THIS
WATER HAS AN
FAINT TREMOR, AS
IF A CURRENT WAS
SHOWING ME THE
WAY TO GO...



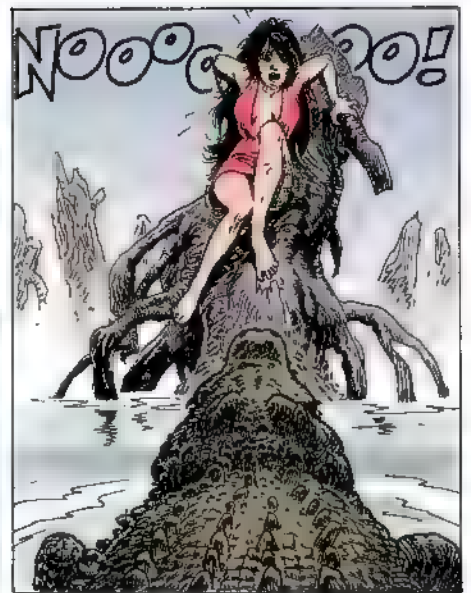
AT LAST A LITTLE BEAUTY
IN THIS LIQUID DESERT.
IS IT A TRAP OR
A GOOD OMEN?



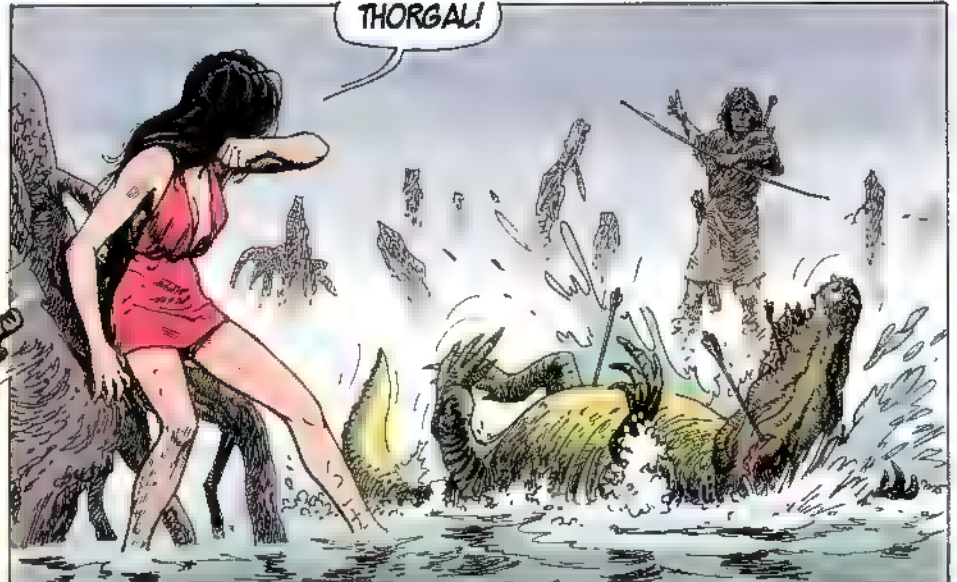
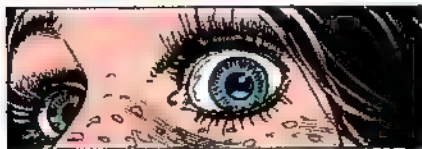




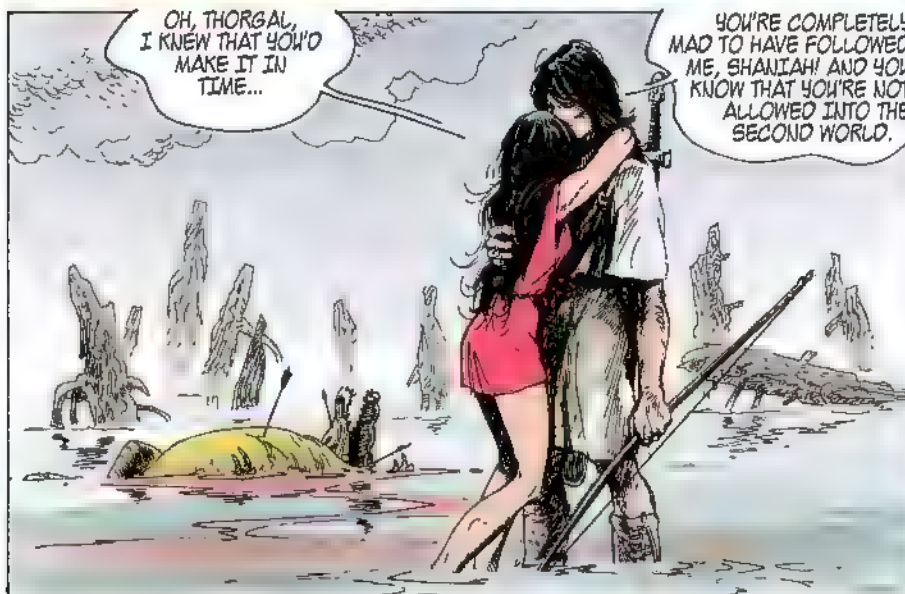
HELP ME!
THORGAL!



NOOOOOO!



THORGAL!

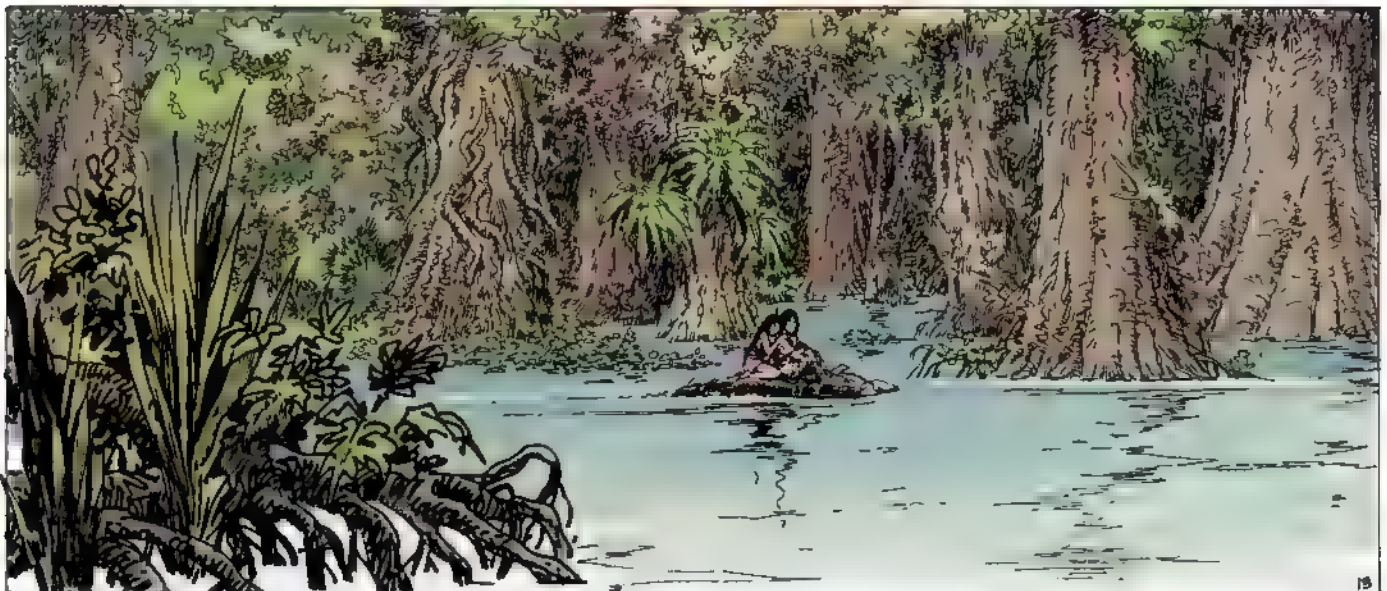
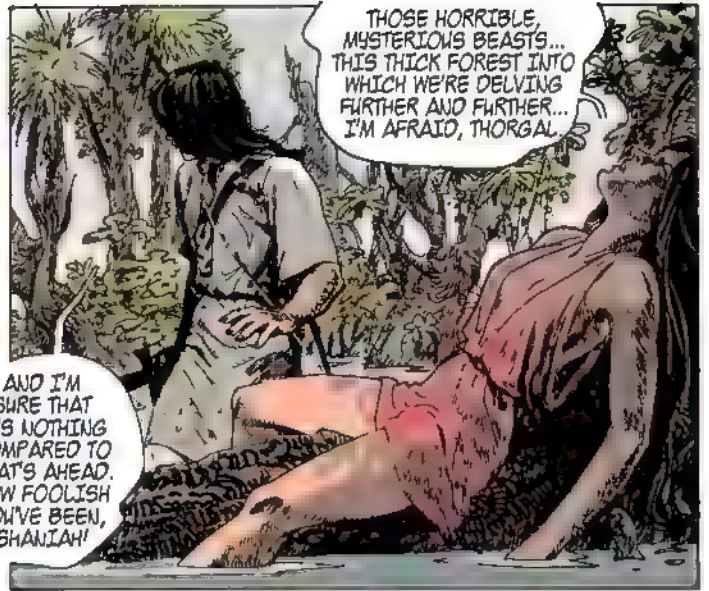


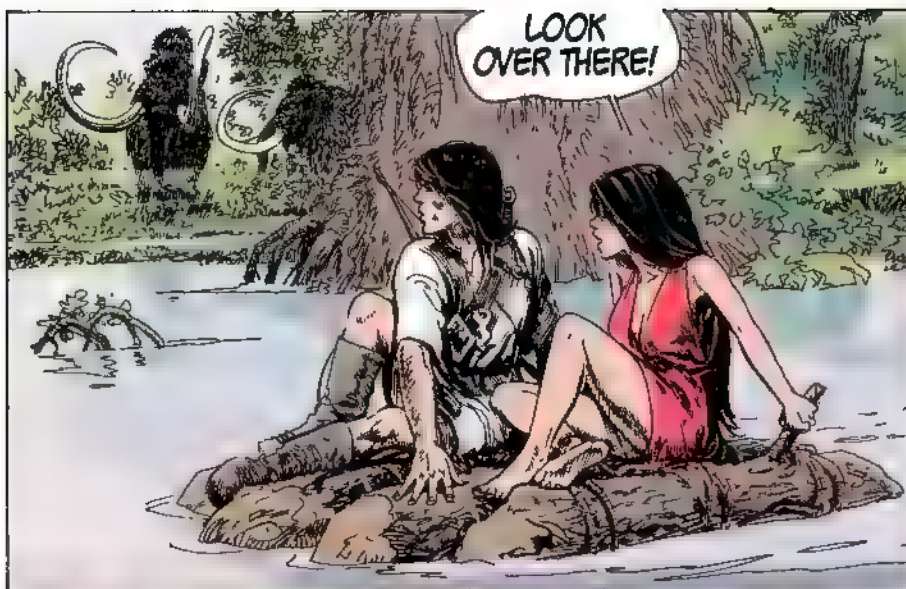
OH, THORGAL,
I KNEW THAT YOU'D
MAKE IT IN
TIME...

YOU'RE COMPLETELY
MAD TO HAVE FOLLOWED
ME, SHANIAH! AND YOU
KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT
ALLOWED INTO THE
SECOND WORLD.



NOT IF I'M WITH YOU. AND
DON'T GET ANGRY—THERE'S
NO POINT: IT'S TOO LATE
TO GO BACK NOW.





LOOK
OVER THERE!

THERE WERE DRAWINGS LIKE THAT
IN THE CAVES NEAR MY VILLAGE
CAVES WHERE OUR ANCESTORS'
ANCESTORS HAD
LIVED ..



AND THOSE HUGE
TREES, THIS FOREST
OF GIANTS... WHERE
ARE WE, THORGAL?

CAREFUL!
HOLD ON!

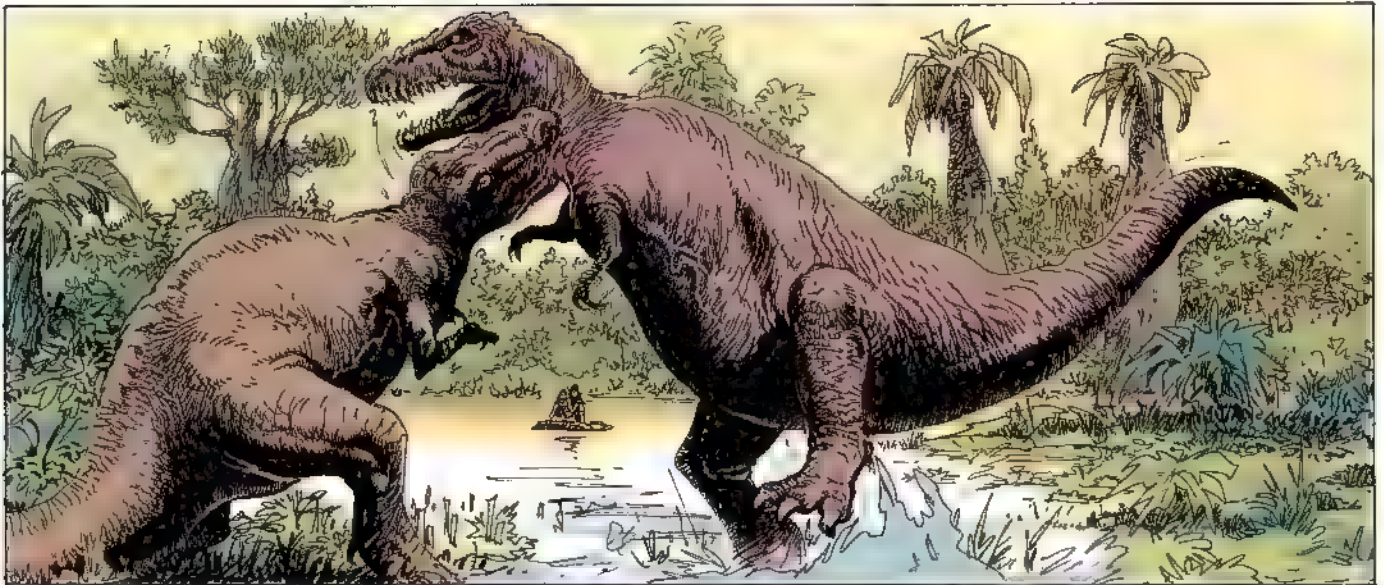
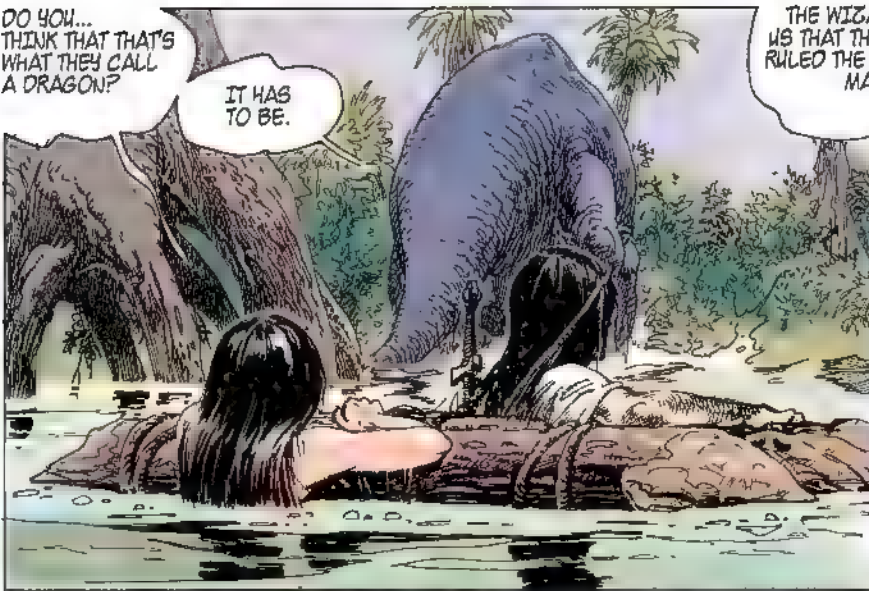
SOMETHING'S
COMING TOWARDS
US, UP AHEAD...



DO YOU...
THINK THAT THAT'S
WHAT THEY CALL
A DRAGON?

IT HAS
TO BE.

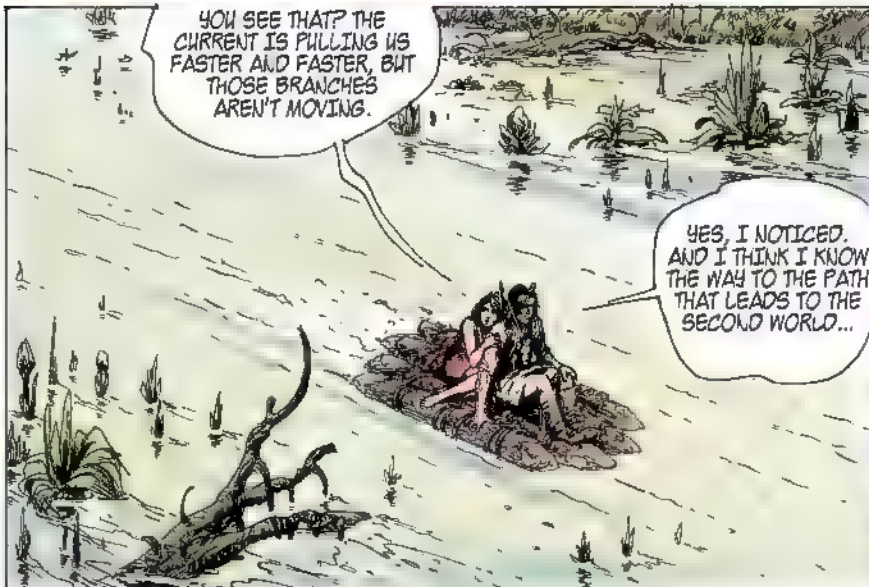
THE WIZARD-PRIESTS TOLD
US THAT THESE DRAGONS ONCE
RULED THE EARTH LONG BEFORE
MAN ARRIVED...



YOU SEE THAT? THE
CURRENT IS PULLING US
FASTER AND FASTER, BUT
THOSE BRANCHES
AREN'T MOVING.

YES, I NOTICED.
AND I THINK I KNOW
THE WAY TO THE PATH
THAT LEADS TO THE
SECOND WORLD...

WE'RE BEING PULLED THROUGH
TIME, TO THE FIRST AGES OF
EARTH!!



THE FIRST BIRDS...



...THE FIRST LAND CREATURES...



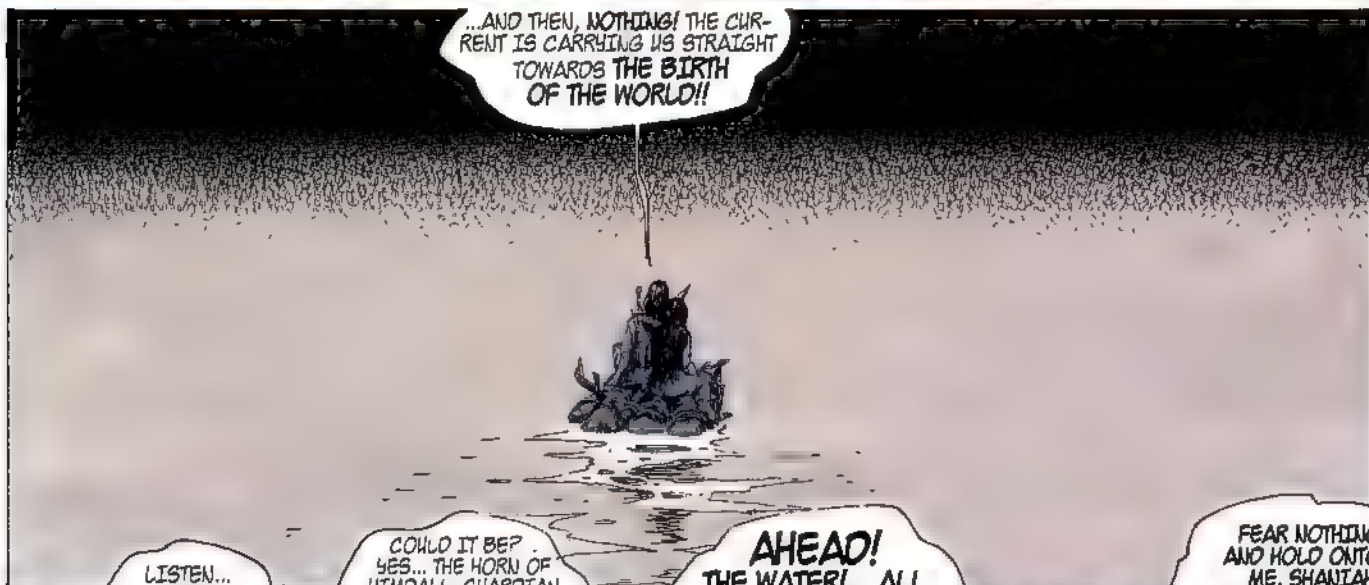
...THE FIRST FISH...



...THE FIRST VEGETATION...



...AND THEN, NOTHING! THE CURRENT IS CARRYING US STRAIGHT TOWARDS THE BIRTH OF THE WORLD!!



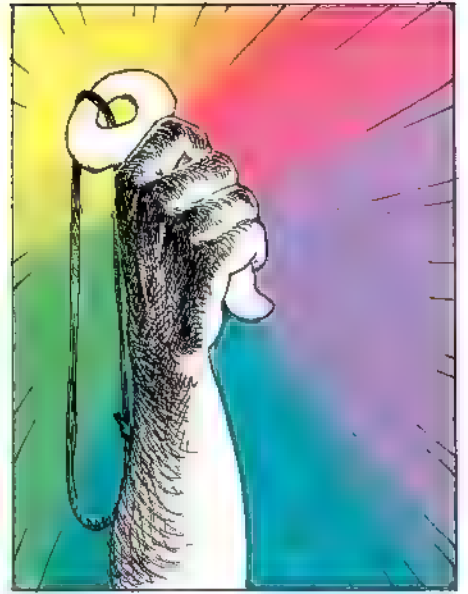
LISTEN... IT SOUNDS LIKE THE CALL OF A HORN...

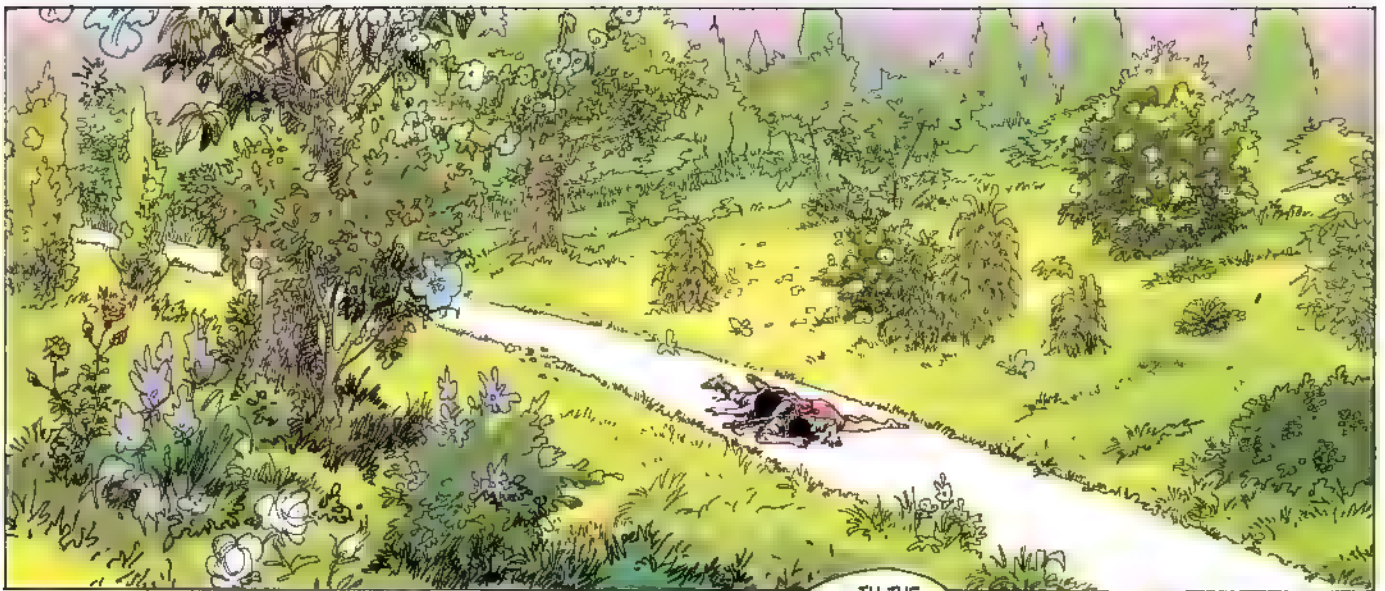
COULD IT BE? YES... THE HORN OF HIMDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE CELESTIAL BRIDGE THAT LEADS TO THE HOME OF THE GODS!...

AHEAD! THE WATER!... ALL THE WATER IS DISAPPEARING INTO AN ABYSS!

FEAR NOTHING AND HOLD ONTO ME, SHANTAH. WE'RE GOING TO CROSS INFINITY!

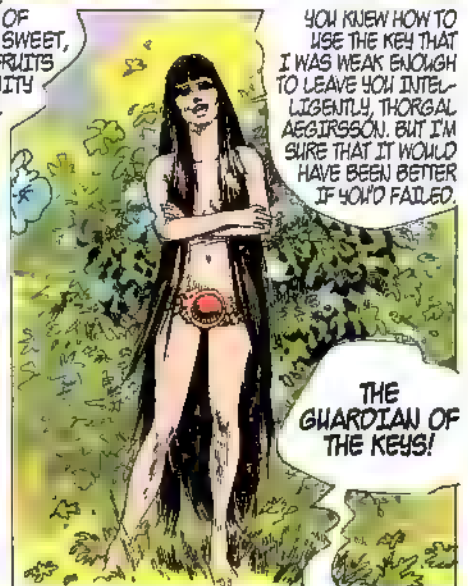






WHERE ARE WE?

IN THE GARDEN OF ASGARD, MY SWEET, WHERE THE FRUITS OF ETERNITY GROW.



YOU KNEW HOW TO USE THE KEY THAT I WAS WEAK ENOUGH TO LEAVE YOU INTELLIGENTLY, THORGAL AEGIRSSON. BUT I'M SURE THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D FAILED.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE KEYS!



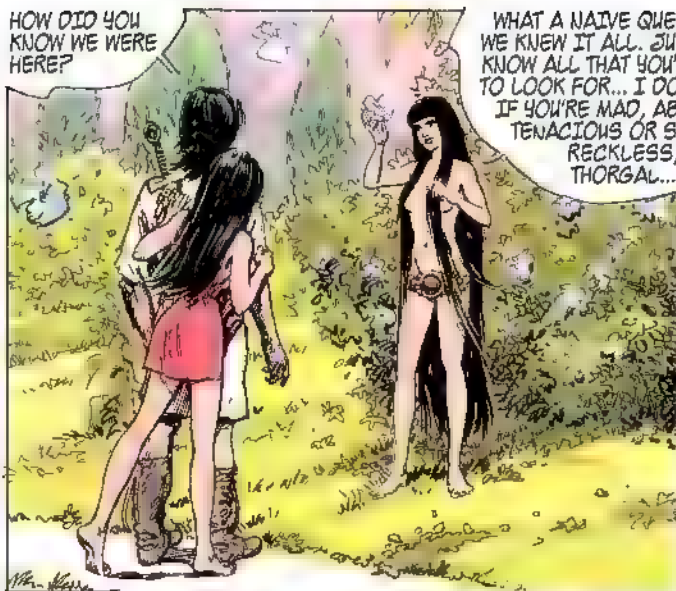
SO... WE'VE REACHED THE ..

NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME!



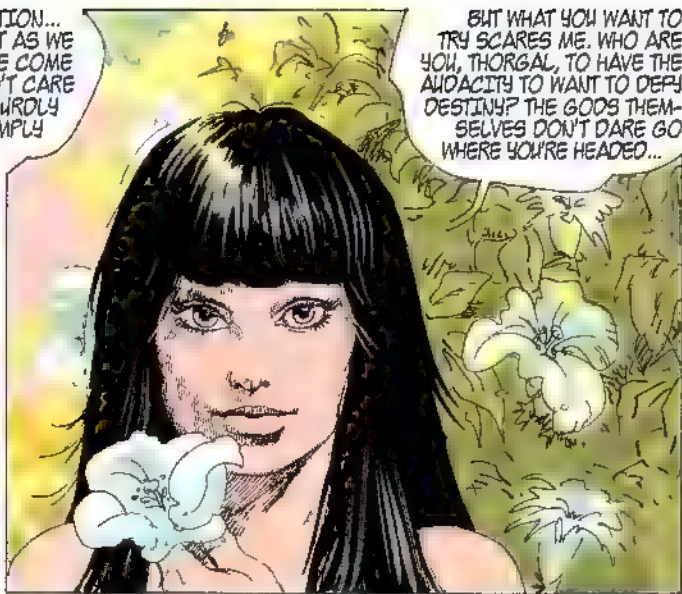
NEVER LEAVE THIS PATH, THORGAL. IF A MORTAL'S FEET TRAMPLE THIS GARDEN'S GRASS, THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE!

HOW DID YOU
KNOW WE WERE
HERE?



WHAT A NAIVE QUESTION...
WE KNEW IT ALL. JUST AS WE
KNOW ALL THAT YOU'VE COME
TO LOOK FOR... I DON'T CARE
IF YOU'RE MAD, ABSOLUTELY
TENACIOUS OR SIMPLY
RECKLESS...
THORGAL...

BUT WHAT YOU WANT TO
TRY SCARES ME. WHO ARE
YOU, THORGAL, TO HAVE THE
AUDACITY TO WANT TO DEFEY
DESTINY? THE GODS THEM-
SELVES DON'T DARE GO
WHERE YOU'RE HEADED...



A SHAME.



AS FOR YOU, OVERLY POSSESSIVE,
IRRATIONAL LITTLE MORTAL, I HIGHLY
DOUBT THAT YOU'LL EVER BREATHE YOUR
WORLD'S AIR AGAIN. YOU CAN'T CHANGE
DESTINY WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE...
EVEN WITH LOVE.

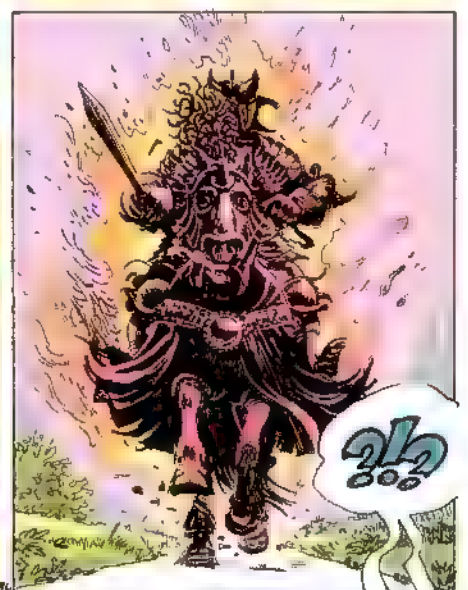
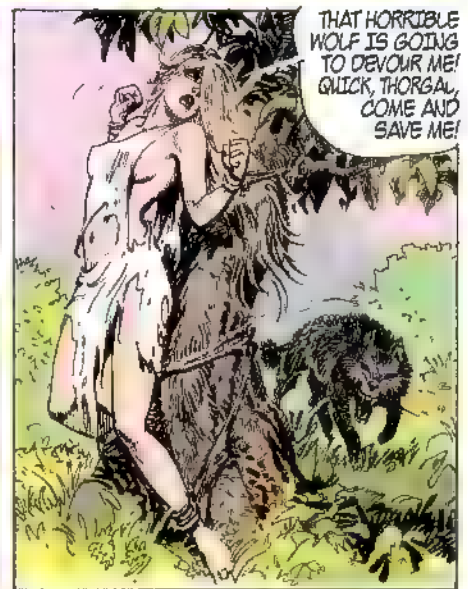
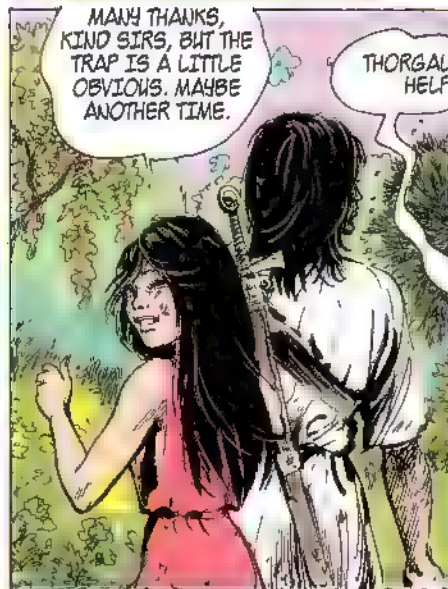
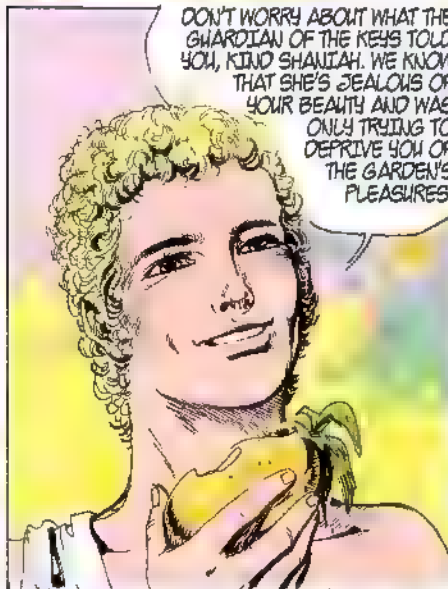
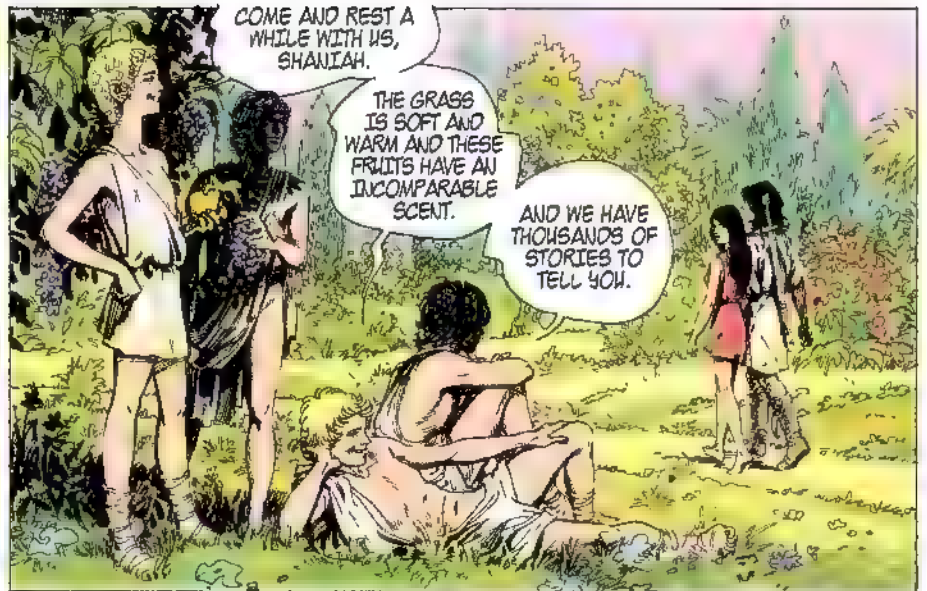
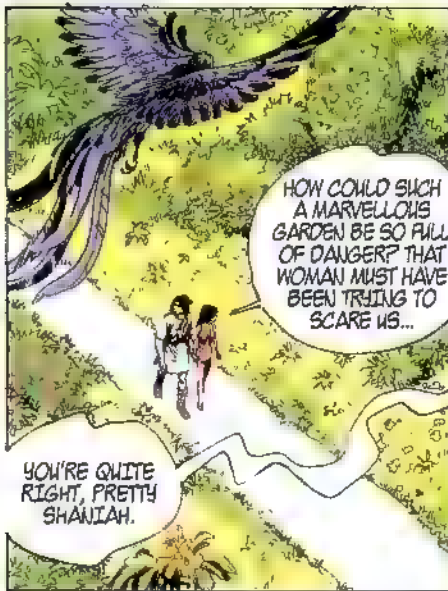


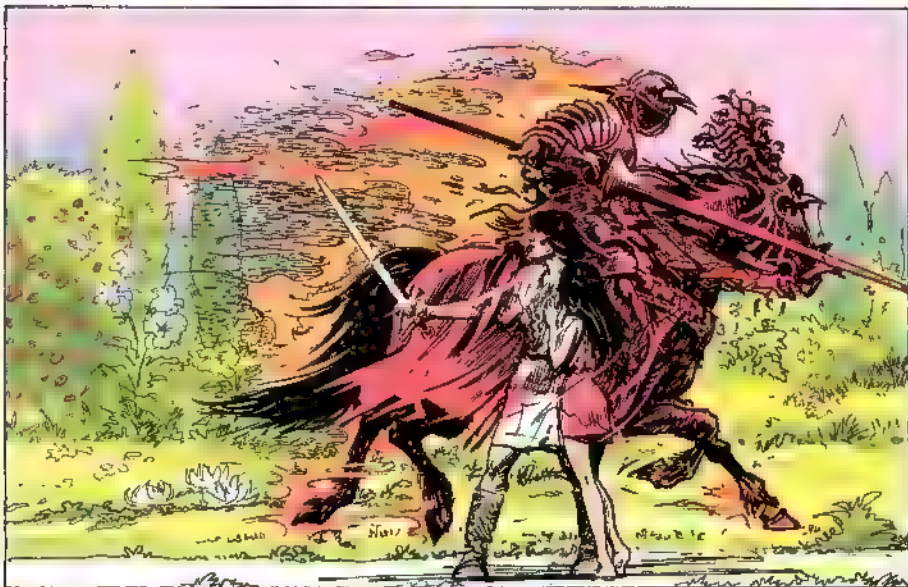
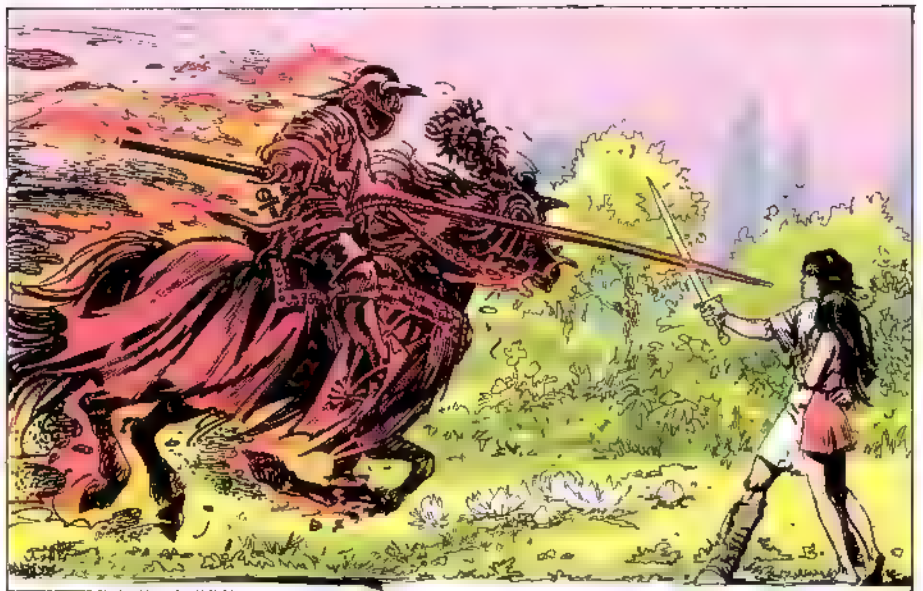
FOLLOW THE PATH
NOW. AND REMEMBER:
NEVER LEAVE THE
PATH FOR ANY
REASON!

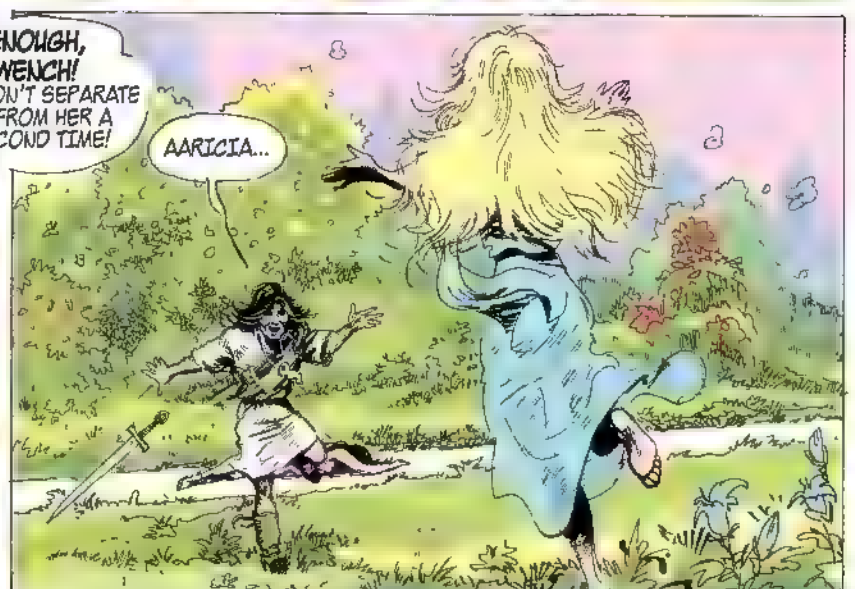
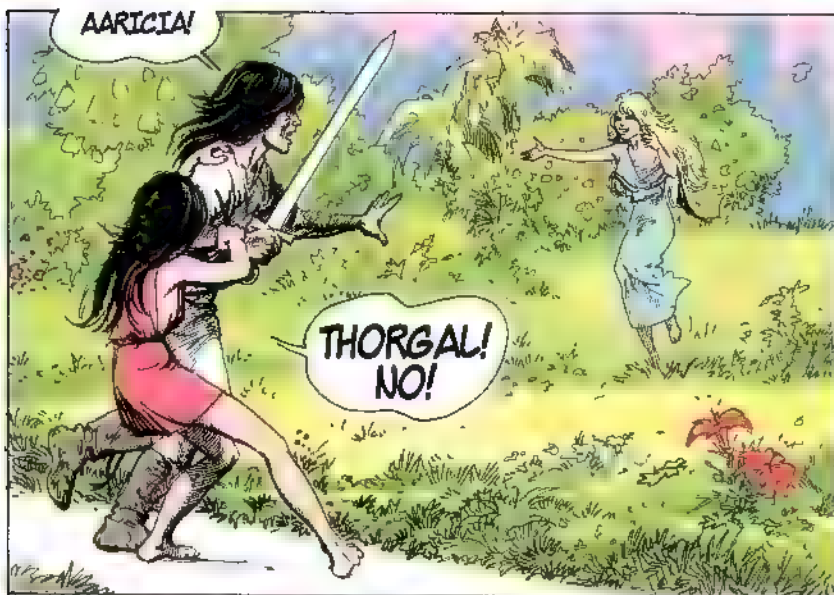


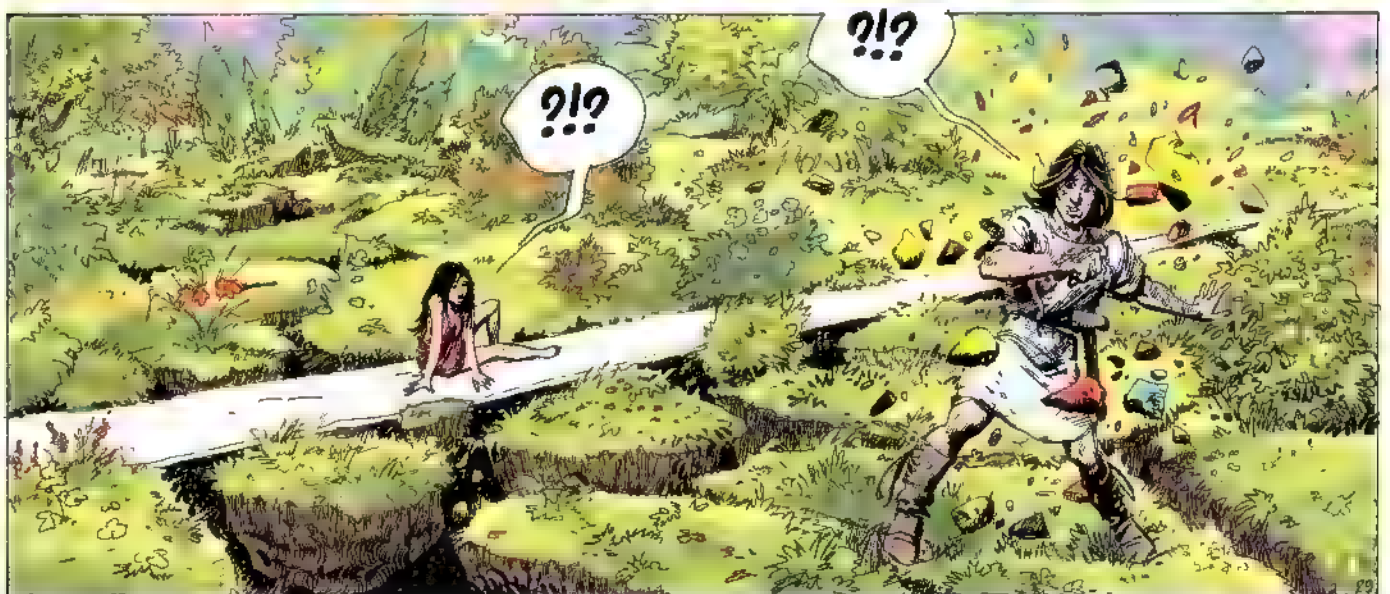
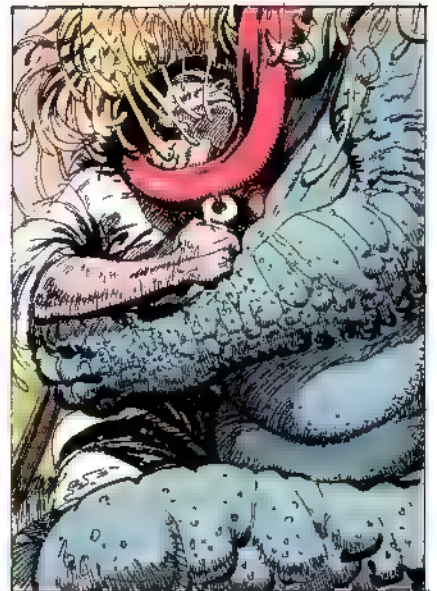
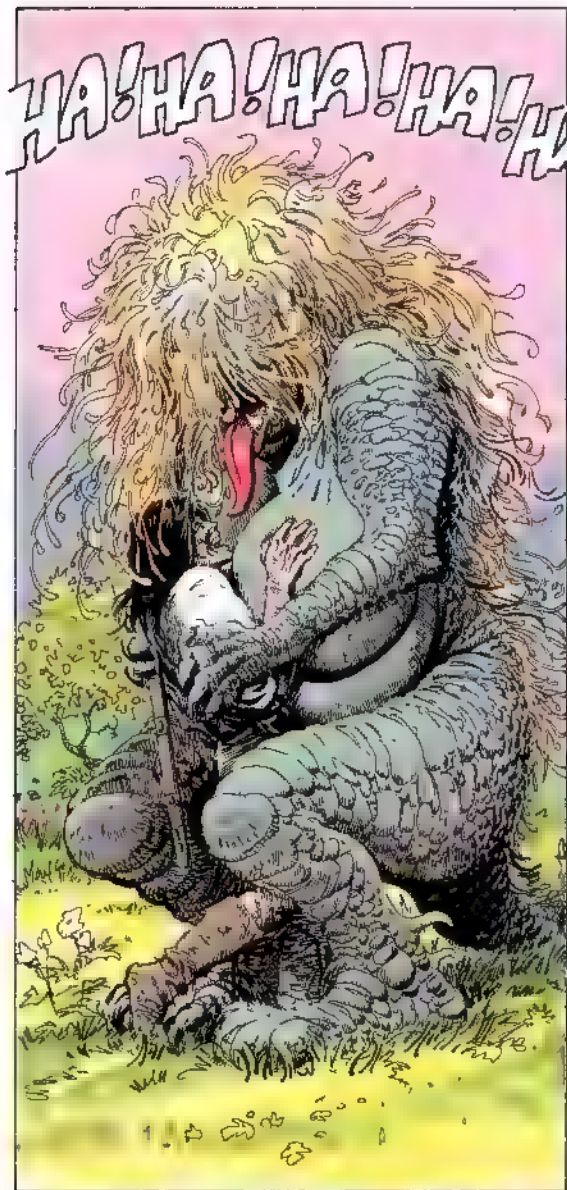
GOODBYE,
SON OF THE STARS!
GOODBYE... OR SEE
YOU VERY SOON!
HAHAHA!

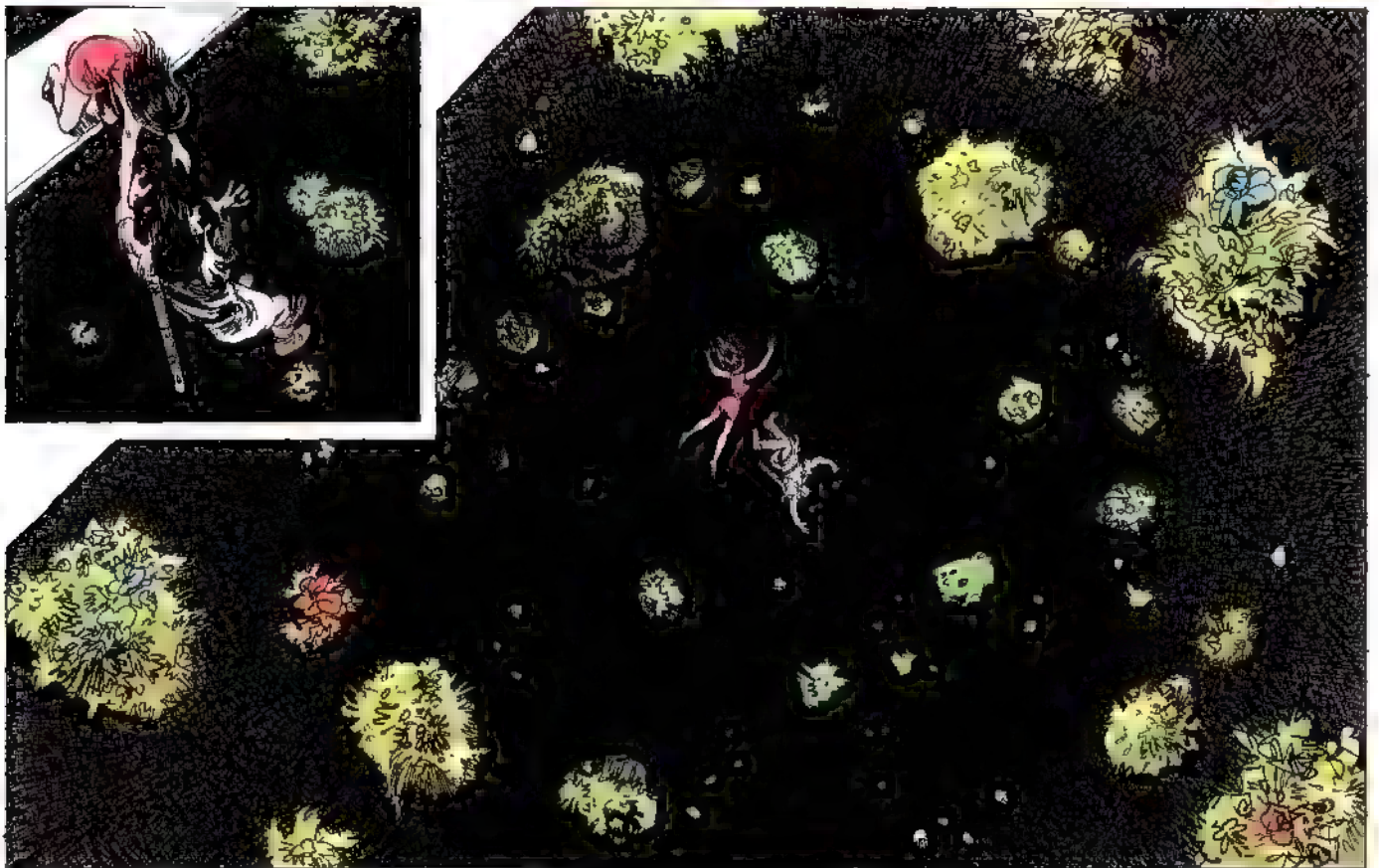
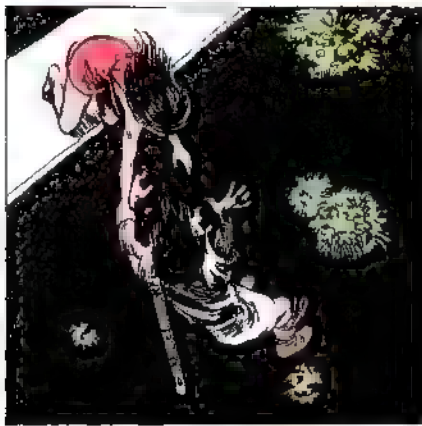


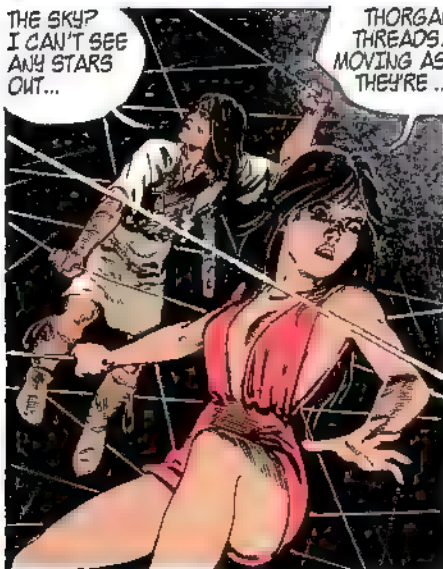


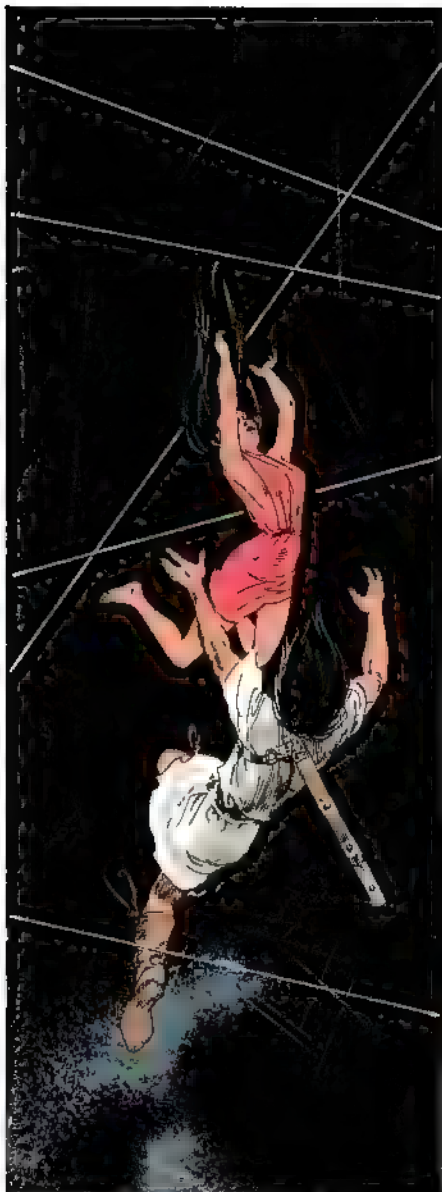
















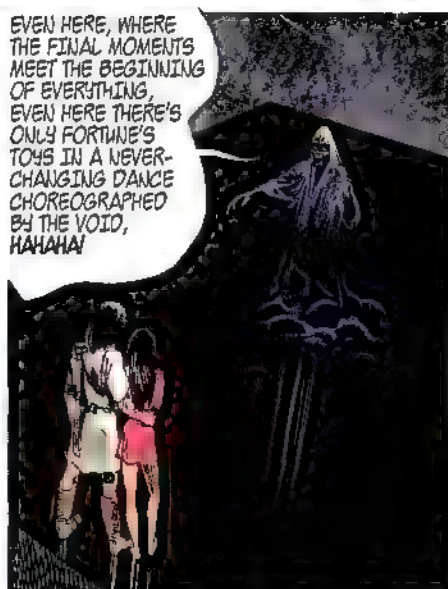
YES, THORGAL, YOU'VE FINALLY REACHED YOUR GOAL. I AM THE ONE YOU WANTED TO MEET... THE ONE WITH NO NAME, BECAUSE I'M GIVEN TOO MANY: LIFE... DEATH... MISFORTUNE... DESTINY...

I'M NOT HERE TO WELCOME YOU, THORGAL AEGIRSSON. NOBODY, NEITHER GOD NOR MAN, IS WELCOME HERE.



DESTINY! HAAAA! AS IF MORTALS COULD HAVE A DESTINY! HAAAA! IT'S THE BIGGEST TRICK OF ALL CREATION!...

EVEN HERE, WHERE THE FINAL MOMENTS MEET THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING, EVEN HERE THERE'S ONLY FORTUNE'S TOYS IN A NEVER-CHANGING DANCE CHOREOGRAPHED BY THE VOID, HAAAA!

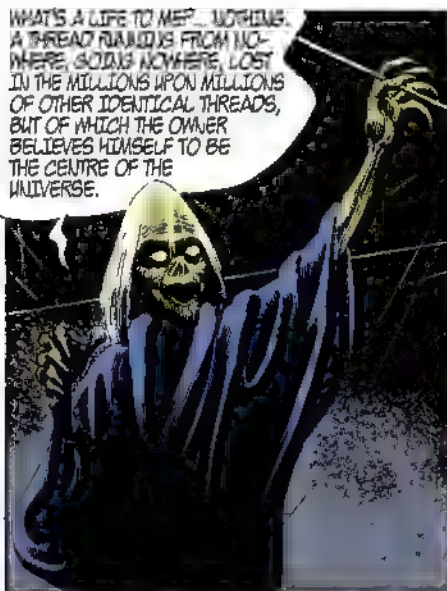


AND YOU, YOU CAME TO ASK ME FOR A LIFE? ONE SOLE, PATHETIC LIFE?... THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY!



WHILE I REIGN OVER THE EXISTENCE OF ALL HUMANITY!!

WHAT'S A LIFE TO ME? NOTHING.
A THREAD RUNNING FROM NOW-
HERE, GOING NOWHERE, LOST
IN THE MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS
OF OTHER IDENTICAL THREADS,
BUT OF WHICH THE OWNER
BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE
THE CENTRE OF THE
UNIVERSE.



IS IT AN OLD MAN OR A
CHILD? A STUNNING YOUNG
PRINCESS OR A POOR
UNDERFED PEASANT? A
KING OR A BEGGAR?



DOESN'T MATTER...



...THE WORLD
HAS ALREADY
FORGOTTEN
THEM.



ARE YOU TREMBLING,
LITTLE MORTAL?!
YOU MUST BE THINKING
THAT YOUR PRECIOUS
EXISTENCE IS ALSO
HERE, SOMEWHERE
AROUND US...



AMONGST
THESE ONES,
PERHAPS? ...
OR THOSE
ONES? ...



WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS,
WITHOUT KNOWING IT, YOU
ARE ALREADY DEAD.
HAHAHA!

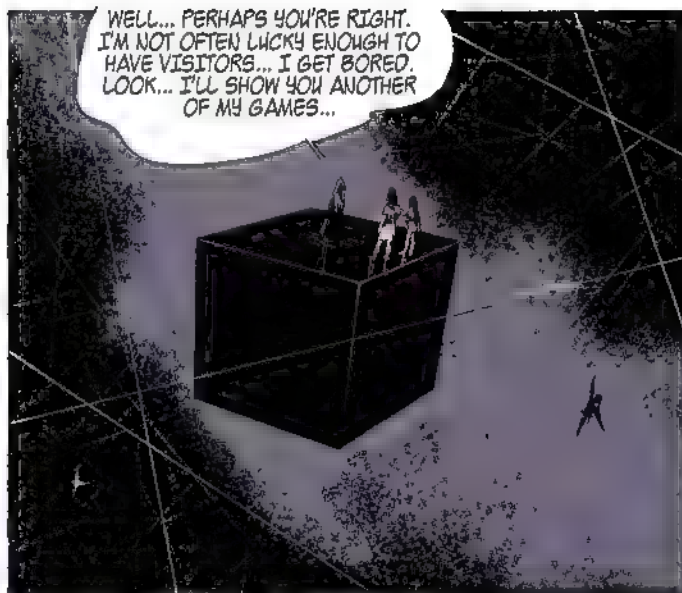
ENOUGH!



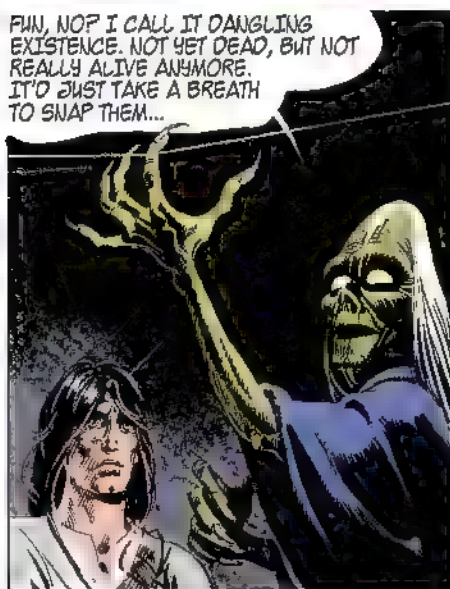


WHY THIS
CRUEL
GAME?

GAME?
CRUEL?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?...
PEOPLE NEED
TO BE BORN,
LIVE AND THEN
DIE... THAT'S
MY ROLE.



WELL... PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M NOT OFTEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO
HAVE VISITORS... I GET BORED.
LOOK... I'LL SHOW YOU ANOTHER
OF MY GAMES...



FUN, NO? I CALL IT DANGLING
EXISTENCE. NOT YET DEAD, BUT NOT
REALLY ALIVE ANYMORE.
IT'D JUST TAKE A BREATH
TO SNAP THEM...

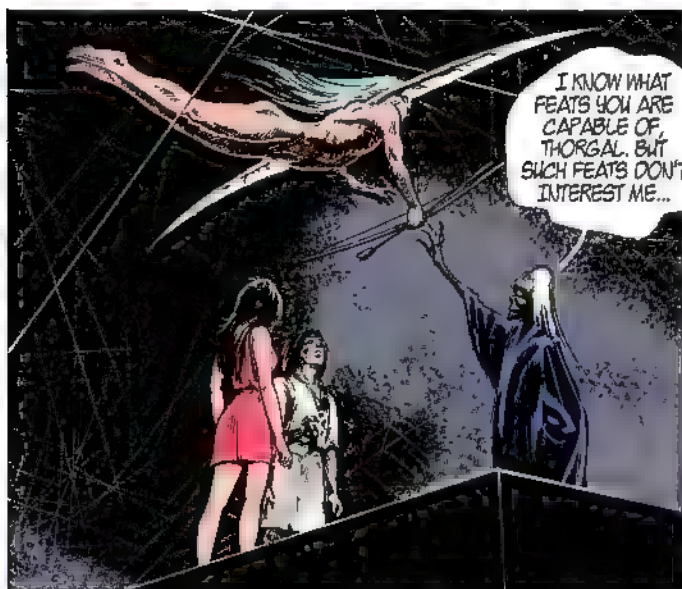


IT'S?...
COULD IT
BE?...
HAHAHA!
HE HARDLY DARES
TO UNDERSTAND!...
BUT YES, MY HAND-
SOME. YOU'RE
HOLDING, IN A
REAL SENSE, YOUR
LOVED ONE'S LIFE
IN YOUR HANDS!...
HAHAHA!



I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE THE
POWER TO GIVE AARICIA
LIFE AGAIN. WHAT DO YOU
WANT IN EXCHANGE? I'LL
DO ANYTHING...

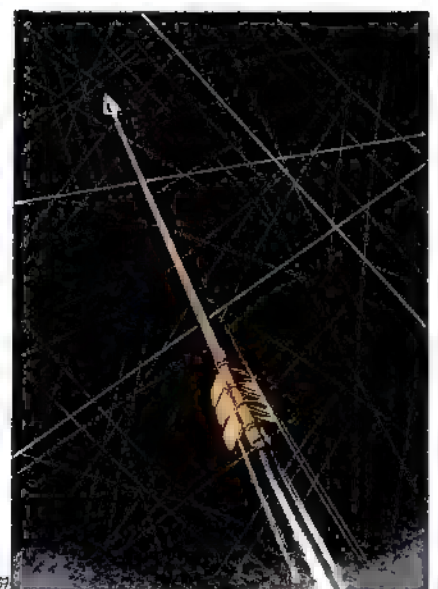
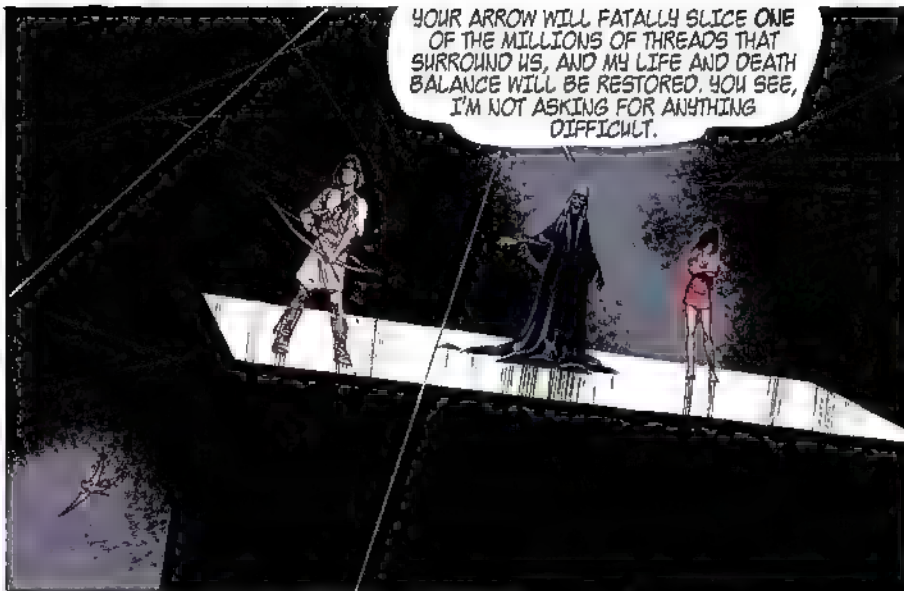
ANYTHING,
EH?



I KNOW WHAT
FEATS YOU ARE
CAPABLE OF,
THORGA. BUT
SUCH FEATS DON'T
INTEREST ME...

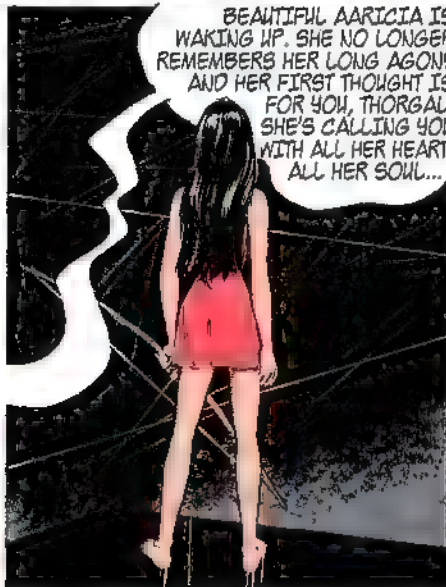


HERE'S YOUR BOW.
ALL I'M ASKING IN
EXCHANGE FOR YOUR
WIFE'S LIFE IS TO
SHOOT AN ARROW.
ONLY ONE.
**IN ANY
DIRECTION!**





THERE YOU GO! YOU SEE... THAT WASN'T SO HARD.



BEAUTIFUL AARICIA IS WAKING UP. SHE NO LONGER REMEMBERS HER LONG AGONY AND HER FIRST THOUGHT IS FOR YOU, THORGAL. SHE'S CALLING YOU WITH ALL HER HEART, ALL HER SOUL...



TOUCHING, ISN'T IT?



IT'S ALL THE MORE TOUCHING THAT YOU'RE NOT CLOSE TO SEEING HER AGAIN, MY BOY. ARE YOU SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN SUBSTITUTE YOURSELF TO THE GODS WITH NO CONSEQUENCE?



YOU NOW HAVE TO SUFFER FOR SHANIAH'S FAULT COMMITTED IN YOUR NAME, THORGAL, BY JOINING THE BEING WHOSE LIFE YOU JUST TOOK IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU SENT IT: TO THE ABODE OF SHADOWS!

REDACTED & VAN HANNE



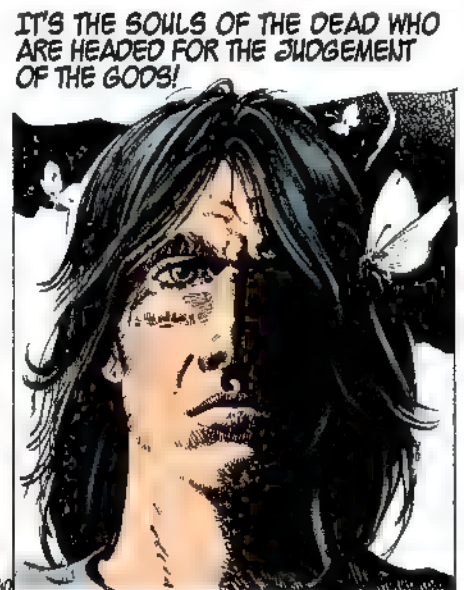
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME WE'VE COME OUT IN THE SAME PLACE. WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS CURSED LABYRINTH! ..



IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I'VE CONDEMNED US TO AN ETERNITY OF WANDERING AROUND DOWN HERE.

NO! I DON'T THINK WHAT YOU DID WAS RIGHT, BUT AT LEAST YOU HAD THE COURAGE TO DO IT FOR ME, SHANTIAH. AND THANKS TO YOU, AARICIA HAS BEEN SAVED







WE'RE IN NIFLHEIM, LITTLE GIRL! THE UNDERWORLD! TO GET BACK TO THE SURFACE, WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION TO THE BUTTERFLY PATH!

WE'LL REASONED, THORGAL!



BUT YOU HAVE TO WORK QUICKLY. THE EARTH ONLY OPENS ONCE A MONTH, ON THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON, TO WELCOME THE SOULS OF THE DEPARTED. AND TONIGHT, IN YOUR WORLD, IS A FULL MOON NIGHT.

YOU ONLY GET THIS ONE CHANCE. IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT OUT BEFORE SUNRISE IN YOUR WORLD, YOU'LL ROAM AROUND HERE UNTIL THE END OF TIME.



ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, THORGAL. GIVE ME BACK MY KEY.

THE KEY? WHY?



I WAS WRONG TO GIVE IT TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE. THANKS TO IT, YOU ACCOMPLISHED THE IMPOSSIBLE AND THE GODS ARE QUITE IRRITATED. EVEN YOU ARE JUST A MORTAL, THORGAL. ALAS!



BUT... WITHOUT THAT KEY... HOW WILL WE GET OUT?

GARM, THE GUARDIAN-GOD OF THE HELLS, DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE LIVING. HURRY ALONG NOW, HURRY ALONG...



HURRY ALONG, THORGAL AEGIRSSON... HURRY ALONG... HURRY ALONG...



SEEMS LIKE THE REAL HERO'S
LUCK IS BEING ABLE TO PLEASE
WOMEN, MORTAL OR NOT.



LET'S NOT WASTE ANY
MORE TIME, SHANIAH.
COME ON!



I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT THESE ARE...

ME NEITHER, BUT WHAT
WORRIES ME THE
MOST IS THAT THERE
ARE FEWER AND
FEWER OF THEM.

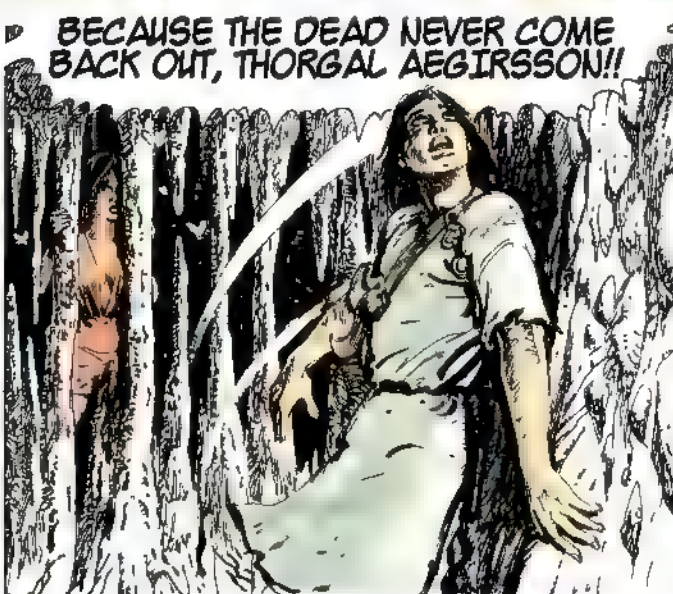


DOES
THAT MEAN
THAT... WE'VE
COME THE
WRONG
WAY?

NO.



IT MEANS THAT DAWN
ON EARTH IS CLOSE
AT HAND.



THE THREAD!...
THE EXISTENCE
THAT YOUR
ARROW SLICED
THROUGH... WAS...
YOUR OWN!!

COULD IT HAVE
BEEN ANY DIFFERENT?
A LIFE FOR A LIFE,
THORGAL... IT'S THE
ETERNAL LAW...

AND IT'S BETTER THIS
WAY. AARICIA IS ALIVE.
FOR WHAT, FOR WHOM
WOULD I LIVE FOR
NOW?

BUT YOU'VE PAID FOR YOUR
MISTAKE, SHANIAH! I'D
FORGIVEN YOU!

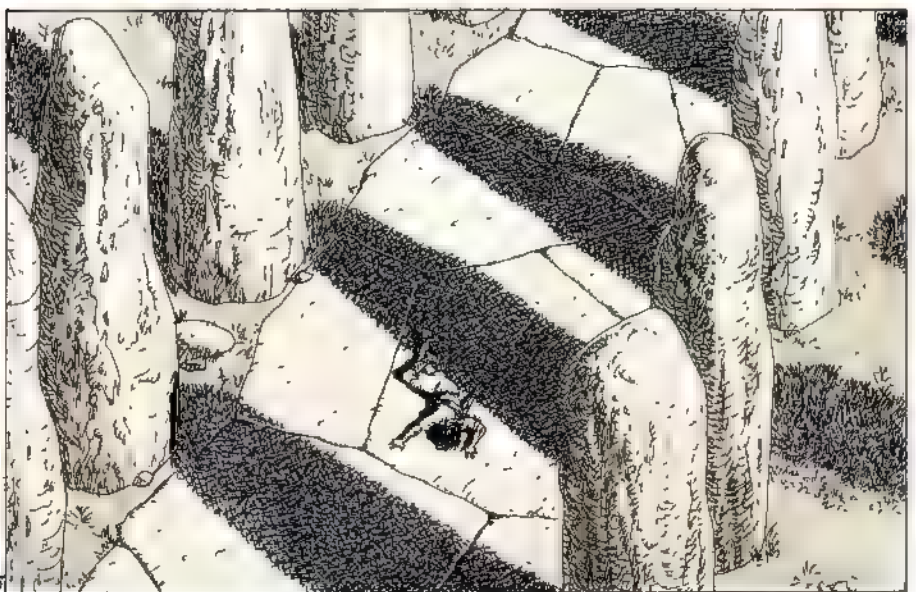
FORGIVEN,
YES. BUT NOT
LOVED...

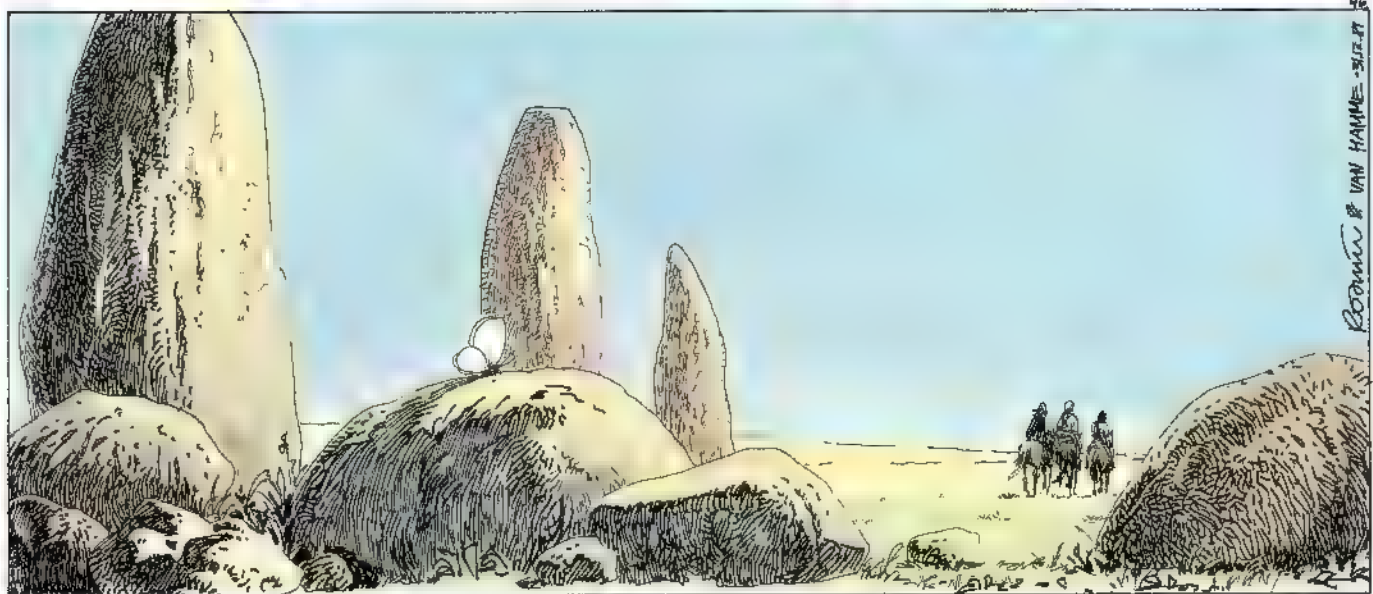
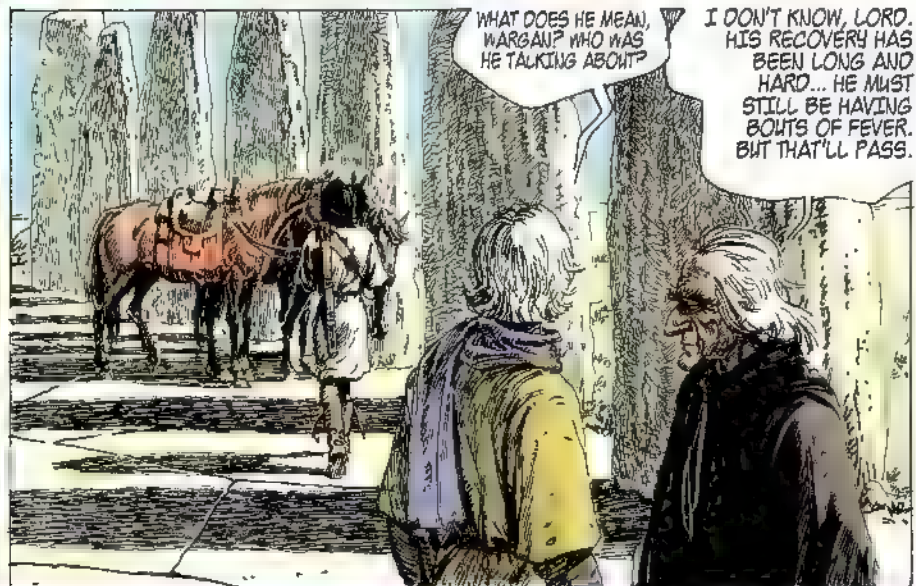
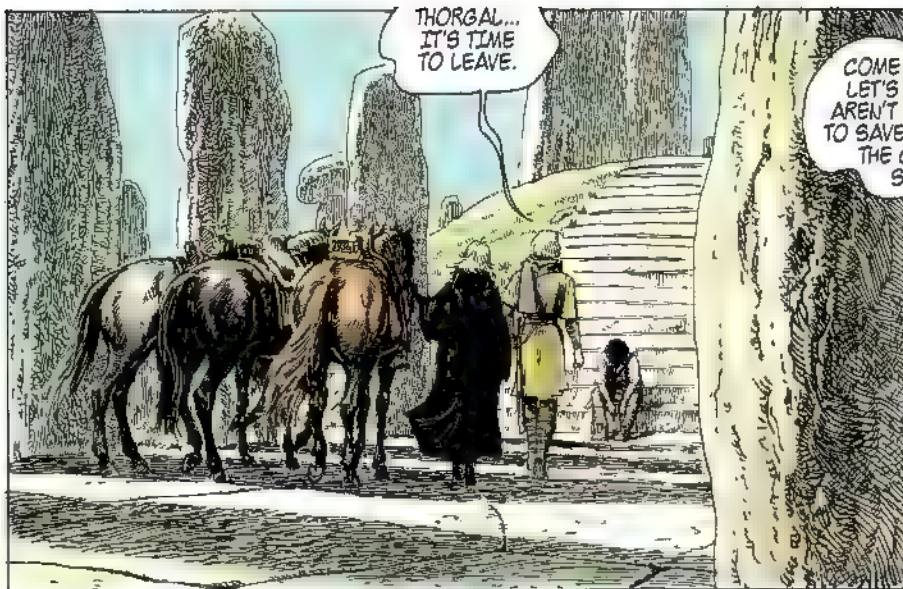
WHILST I, I LOVED
YOU, THORGAL.
I LOVED YOU...

...TO
DEATH.

SHANIAH!...

BE
HAPPY,
THORGAL!
DON'T FORGET
ME TOO
FAST...





THE END



THORCAL



The Fall of Brek Zarith

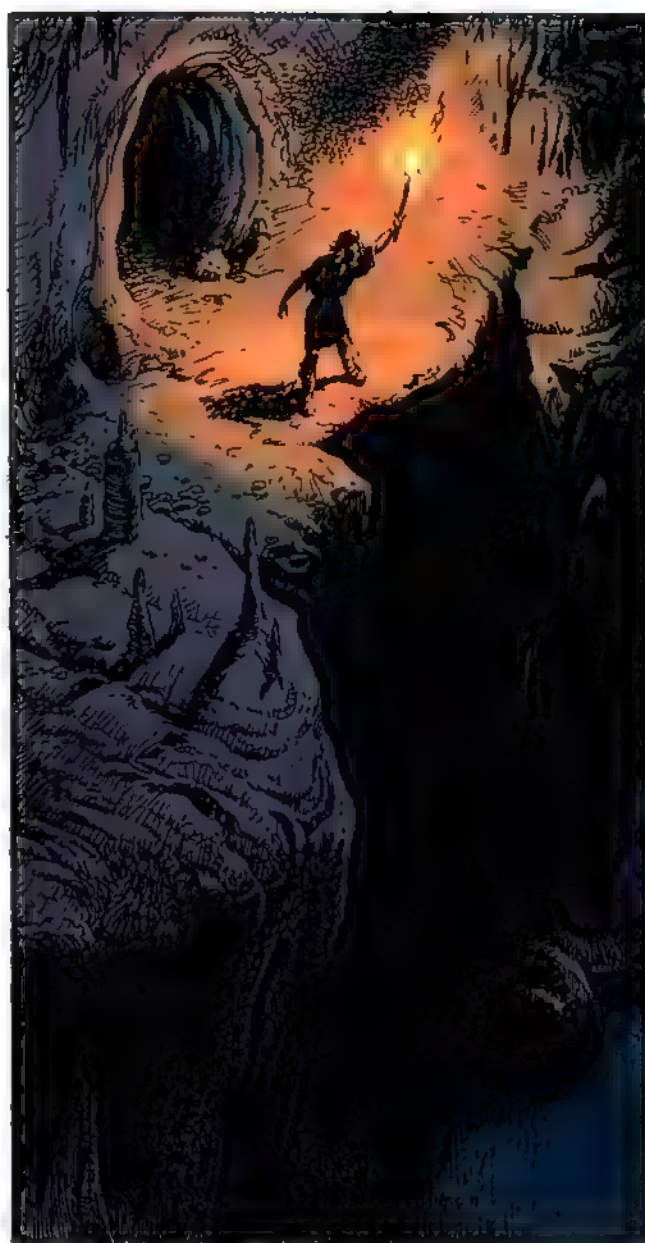
ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME



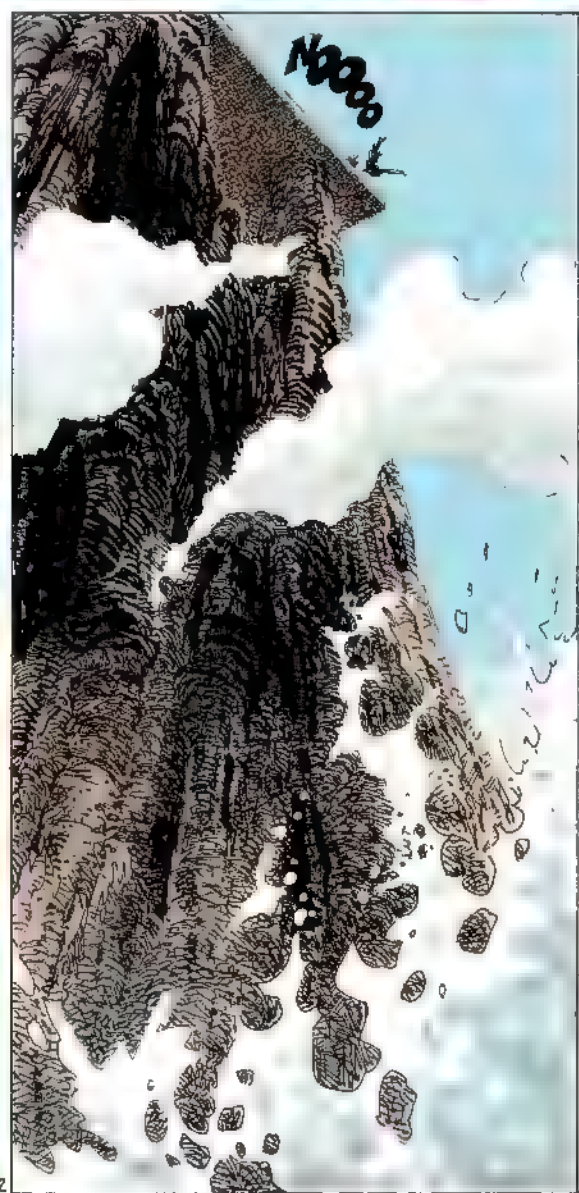
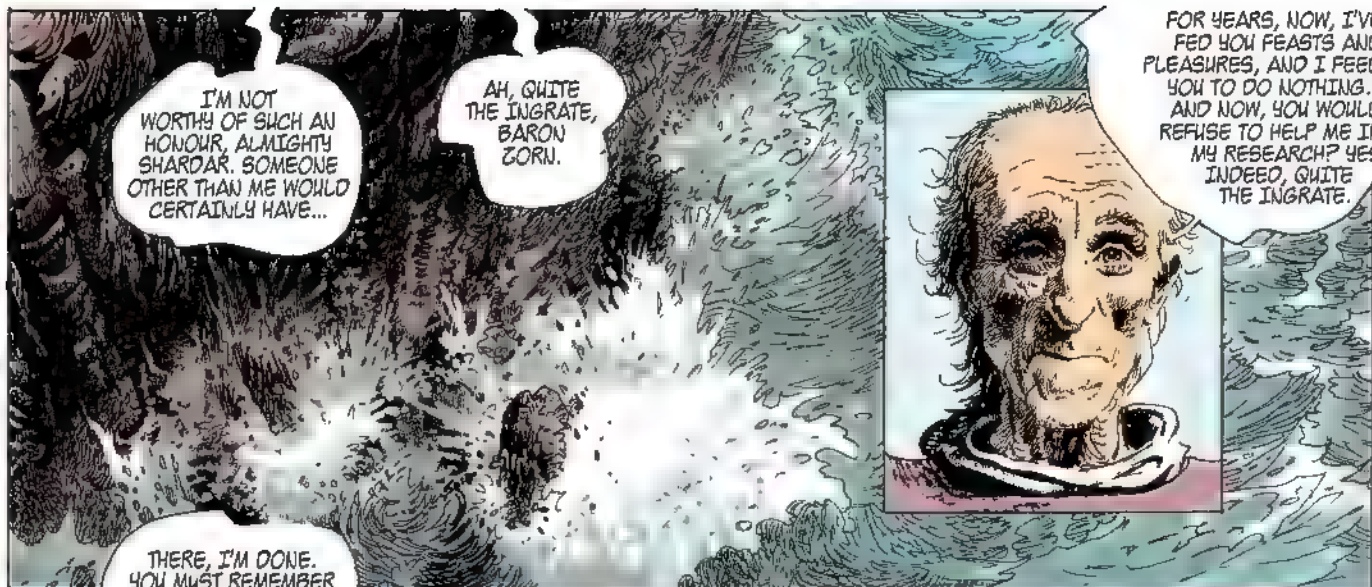
ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

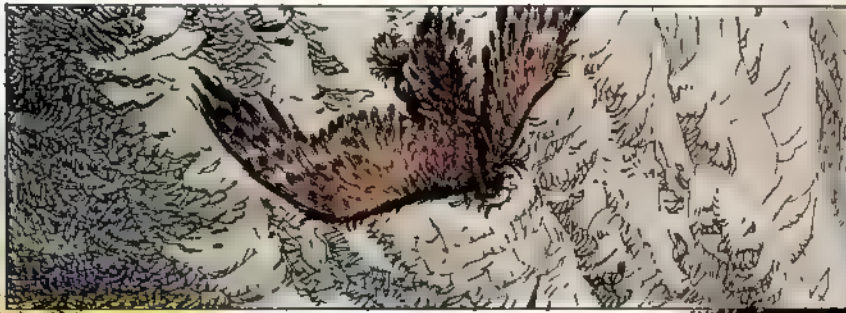
THORCAL

The Fall of Brek Zarith

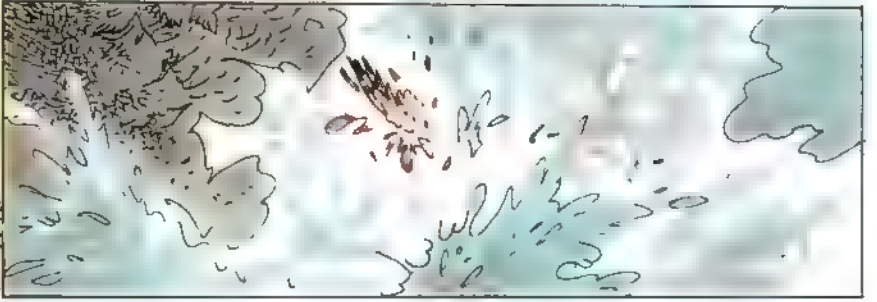
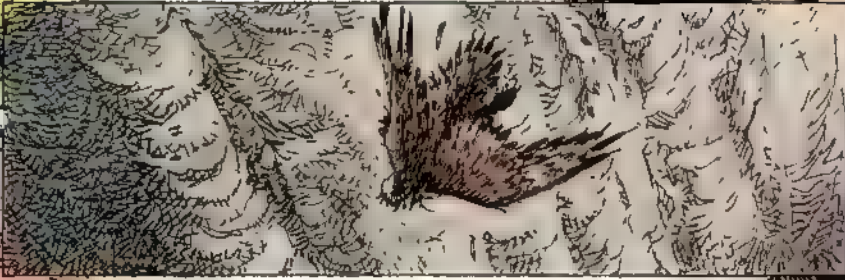




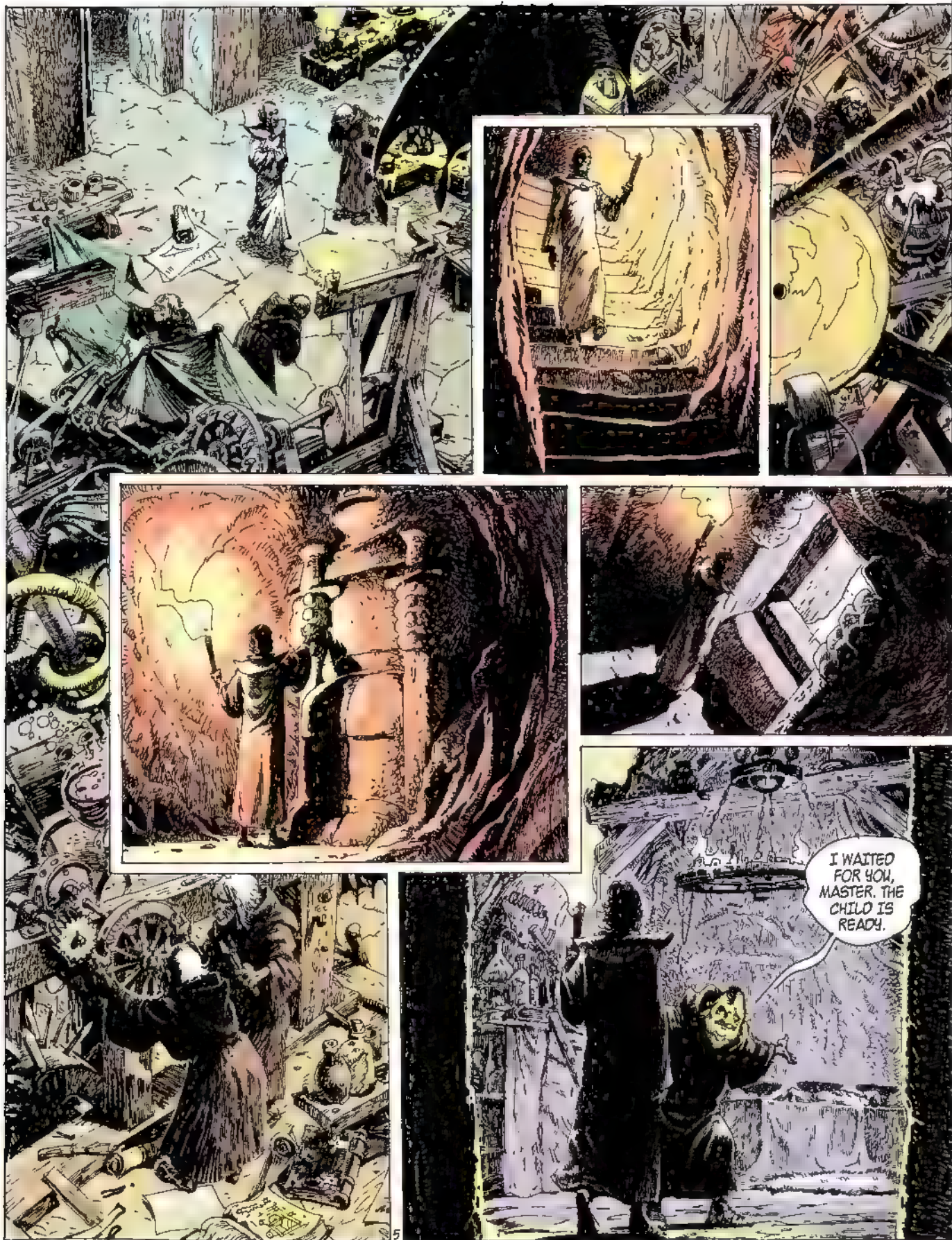




OOOH







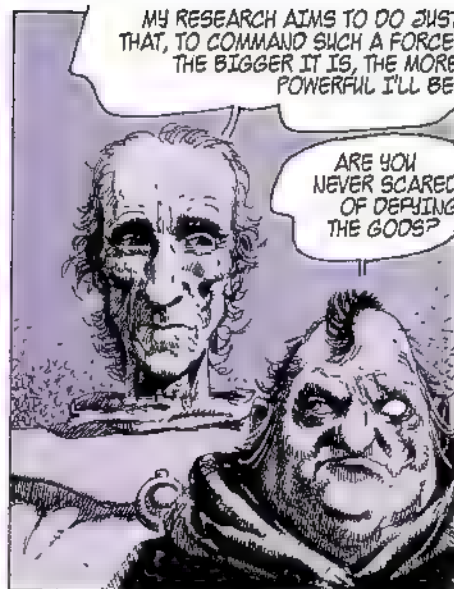
I PUT HIM TO SLEEP, MASTER, BUT... I'LL ADMIT THAT THE FORCE OF THE SPIRITS INHABITING A BODY AS YOUNG AS THIS IS SLIGHTLY UNNERVING. I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN STILL CONTROL THEM...

NONSENSE, HELGITH!



MY RESEARCH AIMS TO DO JUST THAT, TO COMMAND SUCH A FORCE. THE BIGGER IT IS, THE MORE POWERFUL I'LL BE.

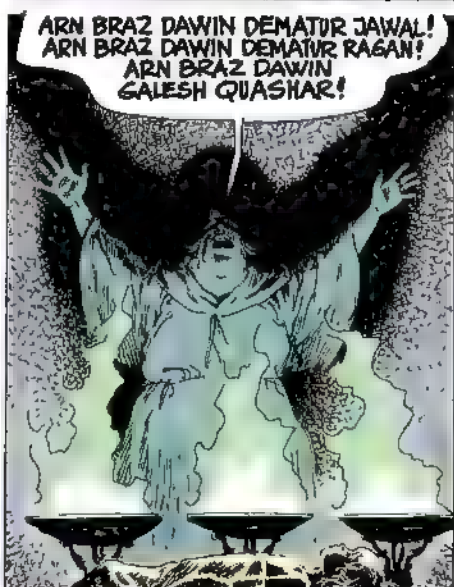
ARE YOU NEVER SCARED OF DEFYING THE GODS?



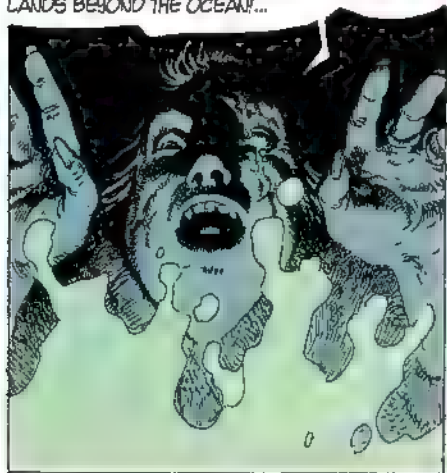
I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH AND I'M TOO OLD TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING, HELGITH. YOU MAY BEGIN—I'M READY.



ARN BRAZ DAWIN DEMATUR JAWAL!
ARN BRAZ DAWIN DEMATUR RAGAN!
ARN BRAZ DAWIN GALESH QUASHAR!



THINK ABOUT YOUR ENEMIES, MASTER! SUMMON EVERYTHING THAT'S HOSTILE TO YOU! THINK ABOUT THE WRETCHES, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, WHO DARE TO THREATEN THE GREATNESS OF SHARDAR THE ALMIGHTY, KING OF BREK ZARITH AND OTHER LANDS BEYOND THE OCEAN!...





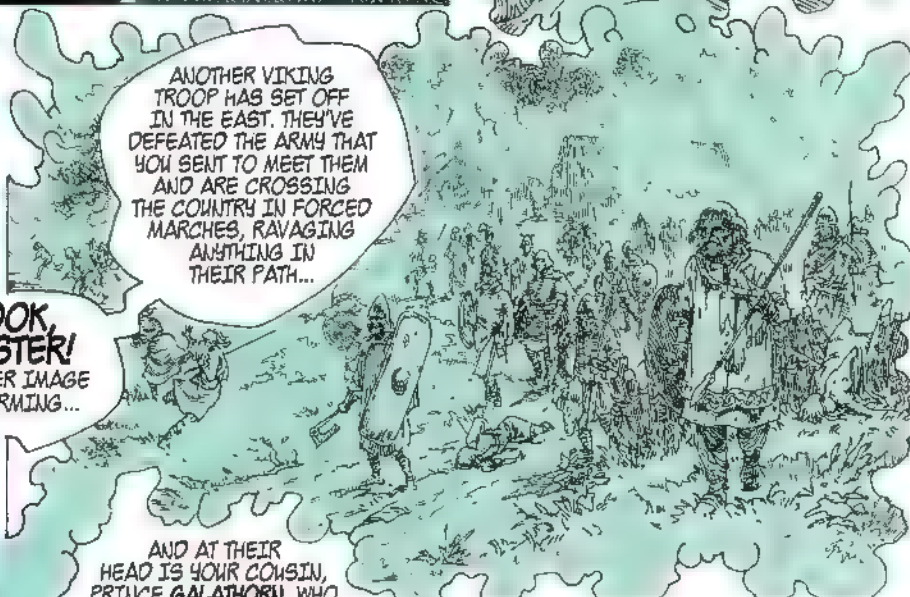
VIKING
DRAKKARS! MORE
THAN FORTY DRAK-
KARS ARE HEADED
STRAIGHT FOR
BREK ZARITH!

THEY'RE LED BY
JORUND THE BULL, KING
OF THE NORTHERN VIKINGS,
THIRSTY FOR GOLD AND
FOR BLOODY BATTLES...



MY SPIES
HAVE ALREADY
TOLD ME
THIS.

LOOK,
MASTER!
ANOTHER IMAGE
IS FORMING...

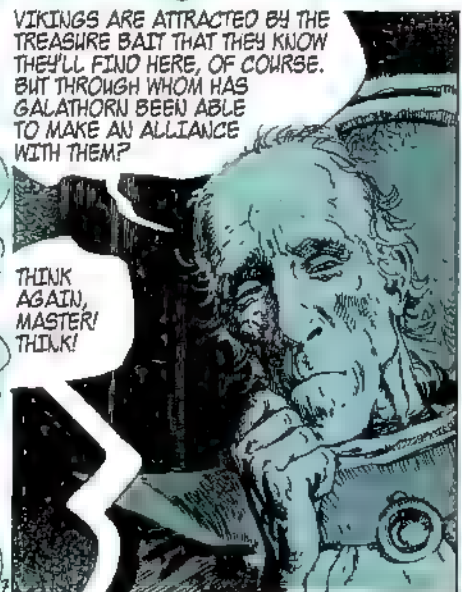


AND AT THEIR
HEAD IS YOUR COUSIN,
PRINCE GALATHORN, WHO
HOPES TO TAKE BACK THE
THRONE THAT YOU TOOK
FROM HIM WHEN HE WAS
A CHILD...

VIKINGS ARE ATTRACTED BY THE
TREASURE BAIT THAT THEY KNOW
THEY'LL FIND HERE, OF COURSE.
BUT THROUGH WHOM HAS
GALATHORN BEEN ABLE
TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE
WITH THEM?



THINK
AGAIN,
MASTER!
THINK!



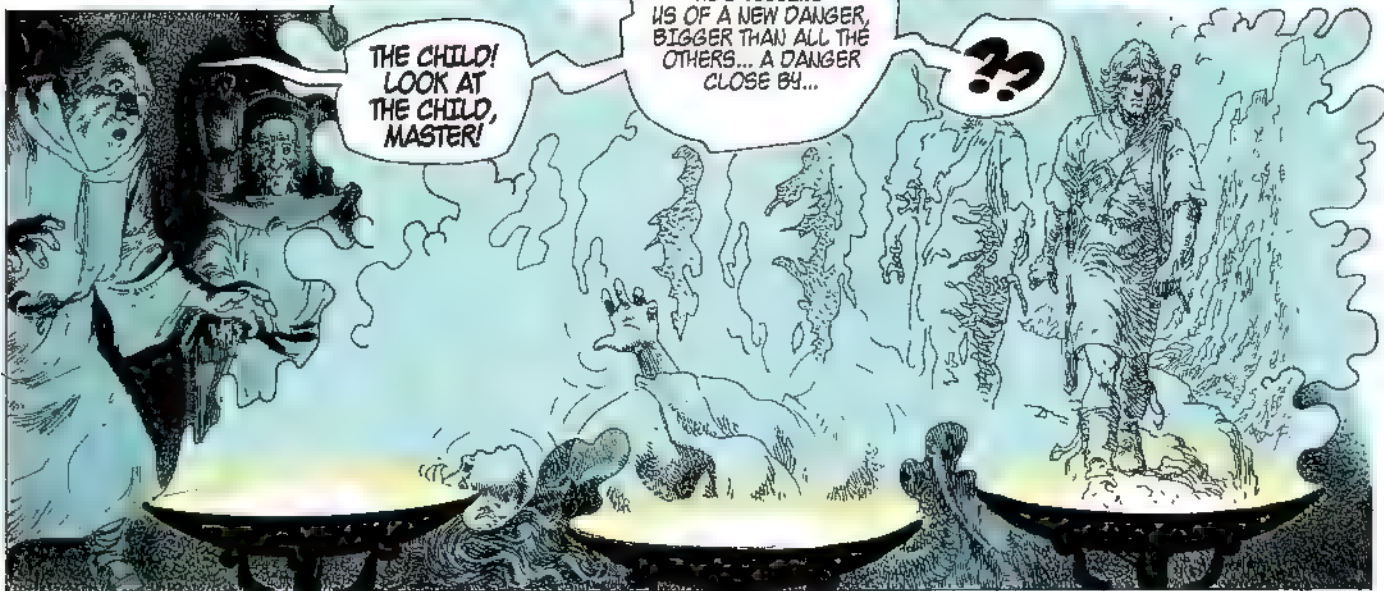


YOUR BARONS,
MASTER! BREK ZARITH'S
BARONS! THE KINGDOM'S
PUPPETS THAT YOU CONTROL
THROUGH TERROR AND
PLEASURE!

OF ALL YOUR ENEMIES, THEY
HATE YOU THE MOST. TO THEM,
GALATHORN'S ARRIVAL WILL
BE THE BEST OCCASION
TO BETRAY YOU.



DO YOU
REALLY THINK
YOU'RE TELLING
ME SOMETHING
I DON'T
KNOW?



THE CHILD!
LOOK AT
THE CHILD,
MASTER!

HE'S TELLING
US OF A NEW DANGER,
BIGGER THAN ALL THE
OTHERS... A DANGER
CLOSE BY...

??



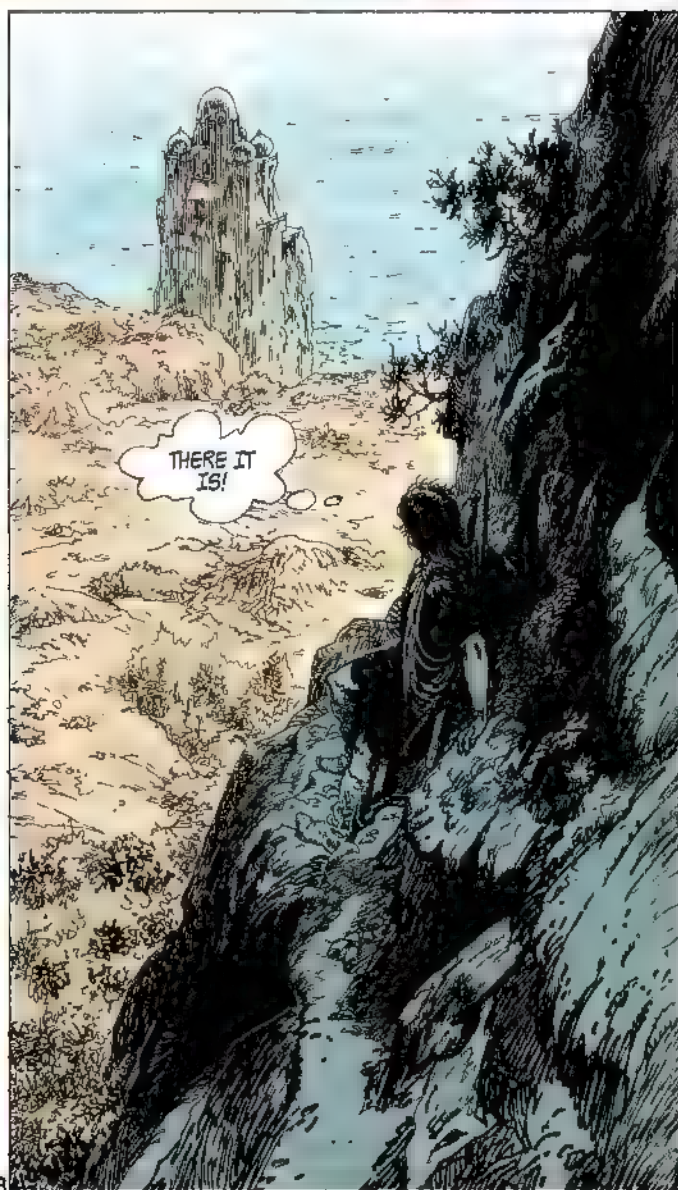
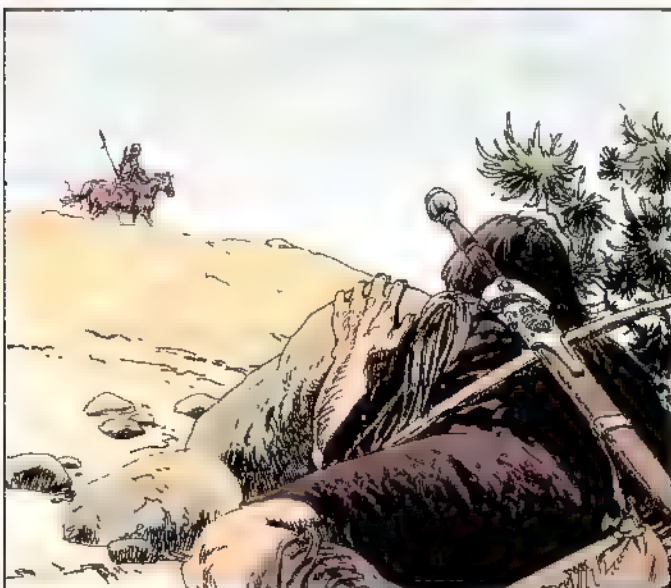
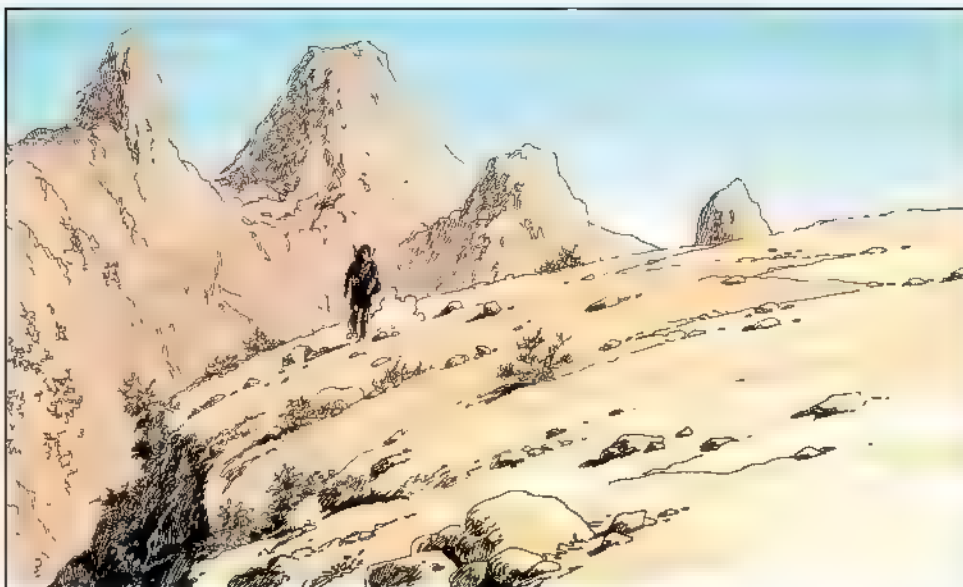
IT ALL WENT OUT SUDDENLY...
AS IF A BIGGER FORCE WON
OVER THE CHILD'S...

BUT THAT WAS
JUST ONE MAN,
HELGITH. WHO IS
HE? HOW COULD
HE HURT ME?



I DON'T KNOW, MASTER, BUT THE SIGNS ARE
FORMELS. IT WILL BE NEITHER GALATHORN
NOR THE VIKINGS, NOR YOUR BARONS WHO'LL
CAUSE YOUR LOSS.

IT'LL BE THE
MAN WE JUST
SAW!









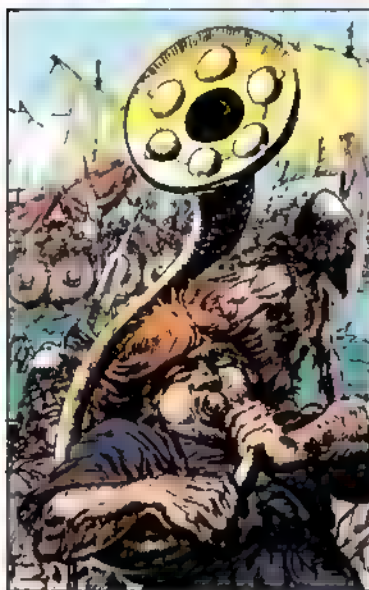
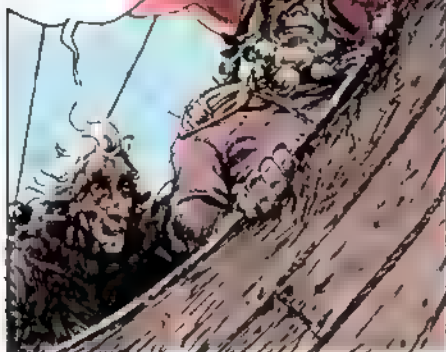
BUT... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ATTACK RIGHT AWAY, JORUND? GALATHORU MUST BE ONLY A DAY'S MARCH AWAY FROM BREK ZARTH, AND WE'D AGREED TO WAIT FOR HIS SIGNAL.

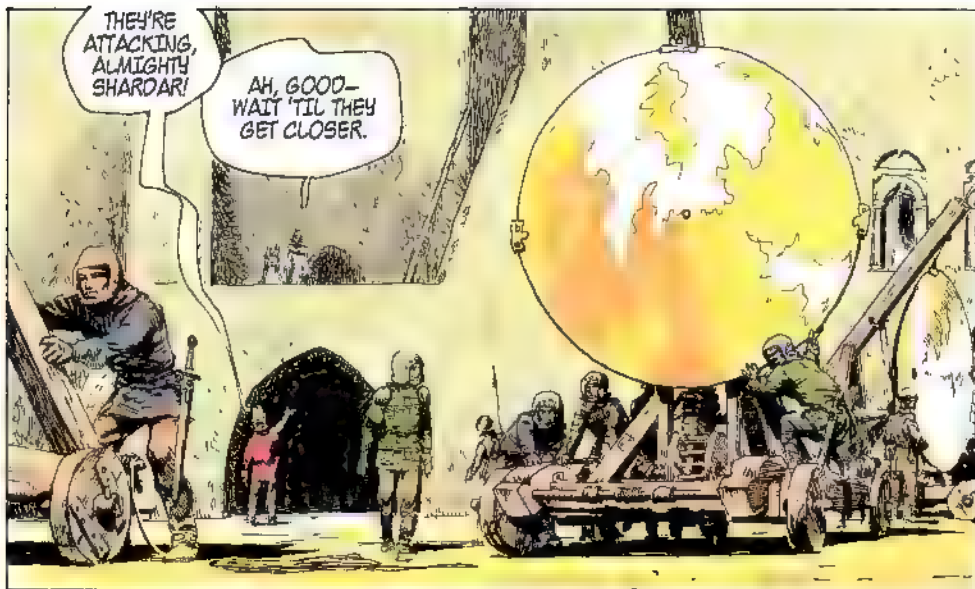
TO HELL WITH GALATHORU, WARGAN THE CROSSING HAS BEEN HARD AND MY MEN ARE HUNGRY FOR A BATTLE

BUT IT'S MADNESS! I KNOW BREK ZARTH WELL. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US TO TAKE IT IN DAYLIGHT. AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL NIGHT

OH, COME ON!... THOSE COWARDS WILL HAVE ALREADY RUN OFF INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE JUST AT THE SIGHT OF US

WHAT'S MORE, A TRUE VIKING FACES HIS ENEMIES IN DAYLIGHT. SOUND THE ATTACK, IVAR!

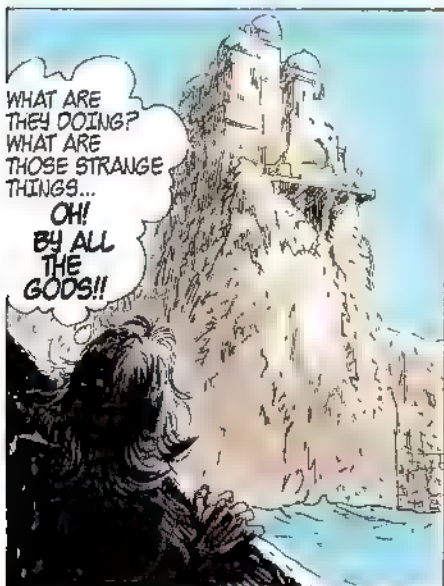




THEY'RE
ATTACKING,
ALMIGHTY
SHARDARI!

AH, GOOD—
WAIT 'TIL THEY
GET CLOSER.

HAA! THORGAL WILL REGRET
REFUSING TO COME WITH US. I'LL
OPEN THE GATES TO BREK
ZARITH FOR HIM MYSELF!



WHAT ARE
THEY DOING?
WHAT ARE
THOSE STRANGE
THINGS...
OH!
BY ALL
THE
GOODS!!

JORUND! STOP THE
ATTACK! TURN YOUR
DRAKKARS AROUND
NOW!



HAVE YOU LOST
YOUR MIND, OLD
MAN? THERE ISN'T
EVEN ONE ENEMY
GALLEY IN
SIGHT.



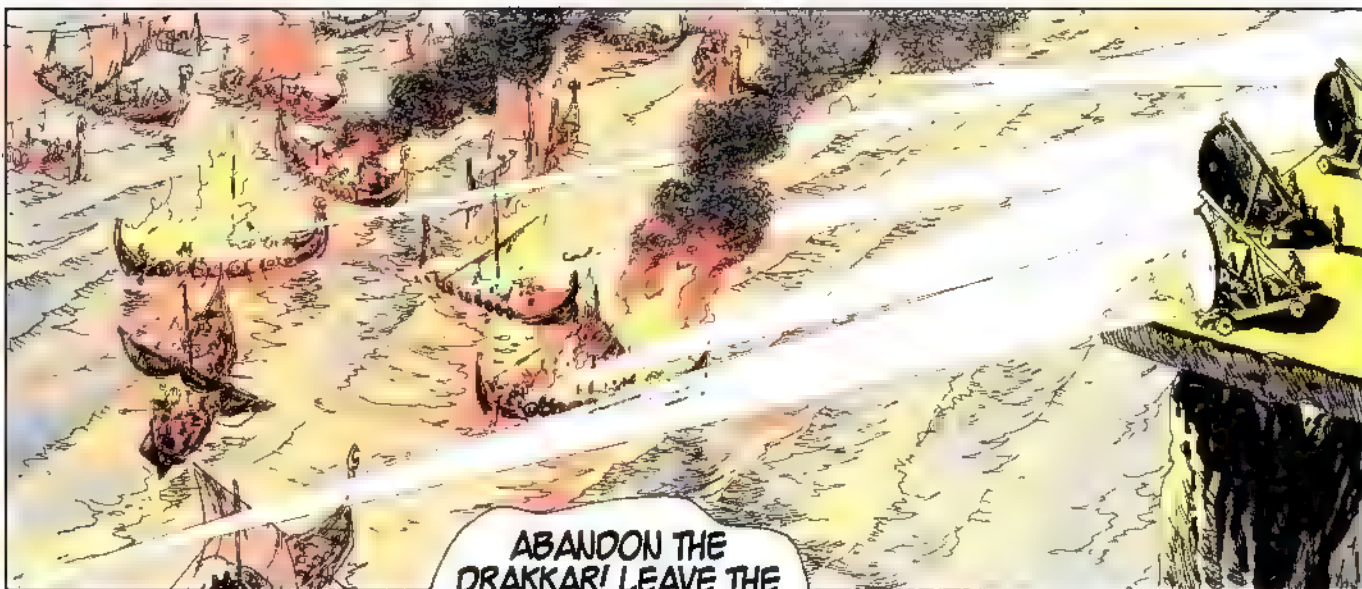
DO WHAT
I TELL YOU OR
WE'RE DONE...
AAAAH



AAAAAH

THOR'S LIGHTNING!
THOR'S LIGHTNING
IS FALLING ON US!

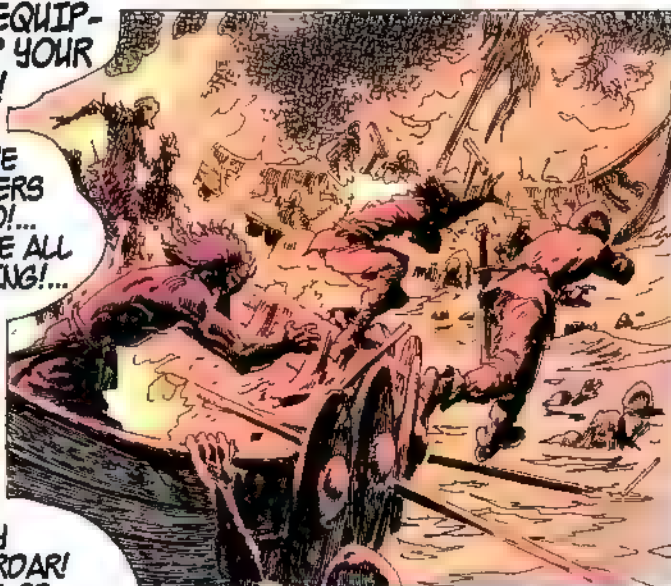




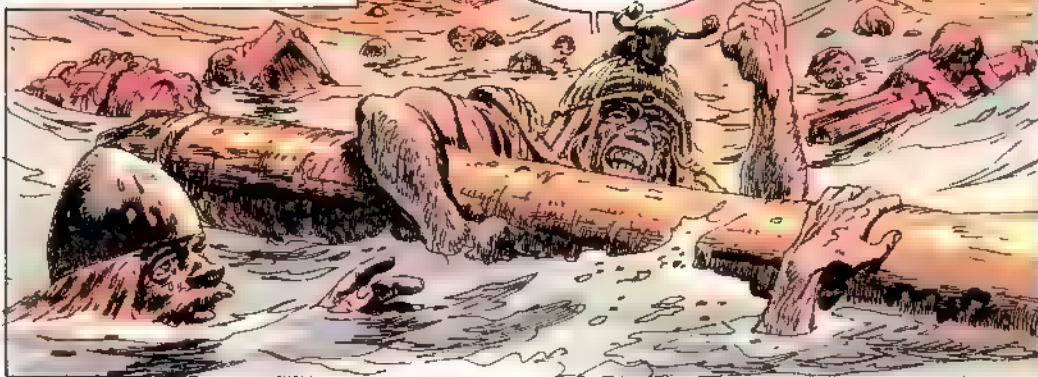
ABANDON THE
DRAKKAR! LEAVE THE
SUPPLIES AND EQUIP-
MENT, BUT KEEP YOUR
WEAPONS!



THE
OTHERS
TOO!...
THEY'RE ALL
BURNING!...

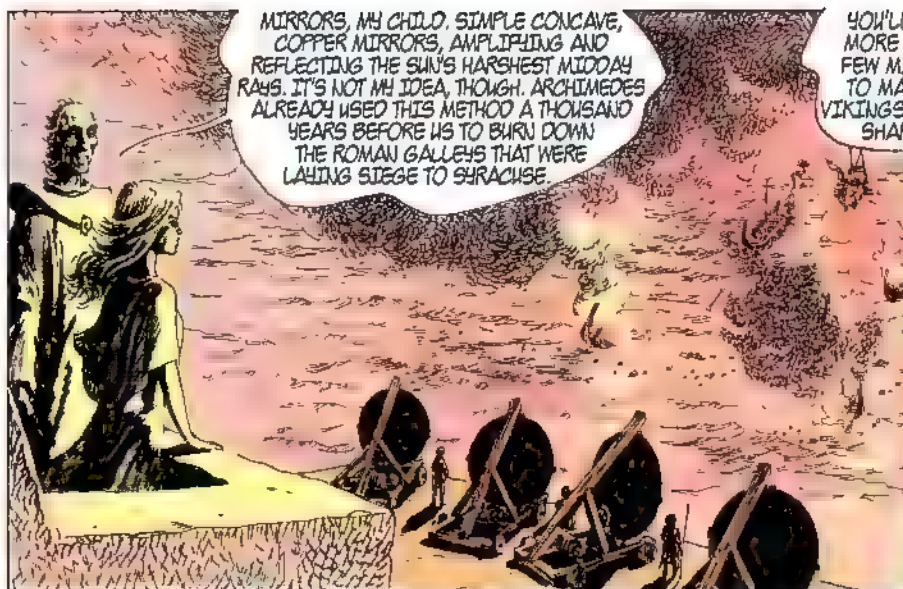


YOU'LL PAY
FOR THAT, SHARDAR!
BY THE SNAKE OF
MIDGARD'S HUNDRED
THOUSAND RINGS, YOU'LL
PAY FOR THAT WITH
ALL YOUR GOLD AND
ALL OF YOUR
BLOOD!!



WELL, THAT'S
WHAT I WOULD
CALL A QUICK,
CHEAP BATTLE...





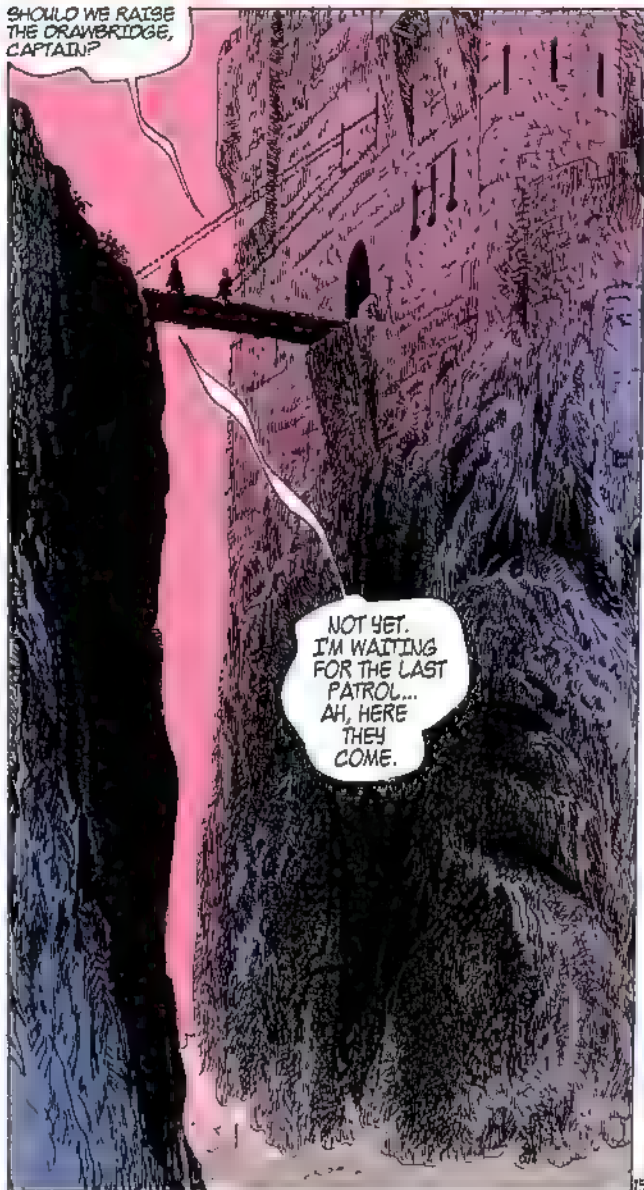
MIRRORS, MY CHILD. SIMPLE CONCAVE, COPPER MIRRORS, AMPLIFYING AND REFLECTING THE SUN'S HARSH MIDDAY RAYS. IT'S NOT MY IDEA, THOUGH. ARCHIMEDES ALREADY USED THIS METHOD A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE US TO BURN DOWN THE ROMAN GALLEYS THAT WERE LAYING SIEGE TO SYRACUSE.

YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN A FEW MIRRORS TO MAKE THE VIKINGS GIVE UP SHARDAR

THAT DOESN'T MATTER. I'VE MADE PROVISIONS FOR EVERYTHING. COME. LET'S GO AND PREPARE FOR THE FEAST THAT I'LL GIVE TONIGHT IN CELEBRATION OF THIS FIRST VICTORY.



SHOULD WE RAISE THE DRAWBRIDGE, CAPTAIN?



NOT YET. I'M WAITING FOR THE LAST PATROL... AH, HERE THEY COME.



THE SURVIVING DRAKKARS ARE HEADED SOUTH, CAPTAIN.

RIGHT. AND THE MAN YOU WERE ORDERED TO CAPTURE?



WE HAVEN'T FOUND HIM, CAPTAIN. NO SIGN OF AN UNKNOWN SUSPECT IN THE AREA.



PERFECT. MY TURN TO PLAY.

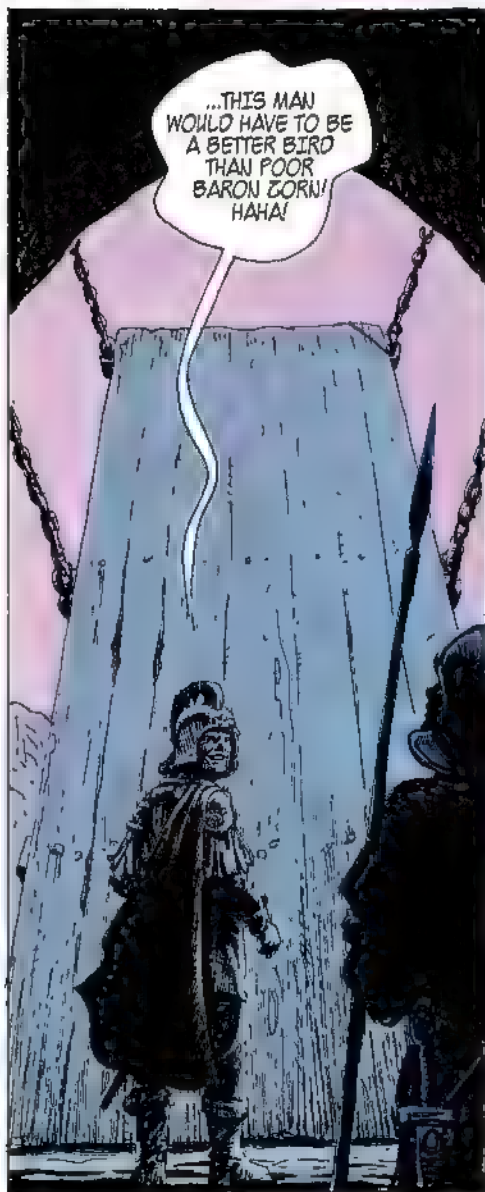


SAY, CAPTAIN, DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE THAT WE'RE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS SINGLE CHAP THAN THE HORDE OF VIKINGS ABOUT TO HIT US?

THEY'RE THE KING'S ORDERS, SOLDIER.



BUT, DANGEROUS OR NOT, TO GET INTO BREK ZARTH...



...THIS MAN WOULD HAVE TO BE A BETTER BIRD THAN POOR BARON ZORN! HAHAI



SLAMMM!



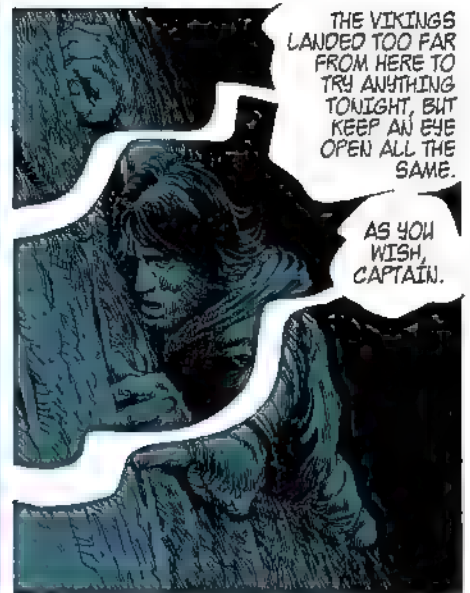
AND NOW, MAY ALL THE GODS COME TO MY AID!

ROMANUS & VAN KANINE



ANYTHING TO
REPORT?

NO, CAPTAIN.
ALL IS CLEAR.
OUR BARONS
CAN FEAST
IN PEACE.



THE VIKINGS
LANDED TOO FAR
FROM HERE TO
TRY ANYTHING
TONIGHT, BUT
KEEP AN EYE
OPEN ALL THE
SAME.

AS YOU
WISH,
CAPTAIN.



CLING



HMM...
ANYBODY
THERE?





AS SOON AS WE MAKE A
MOVE, YOU'LL POST YOUR
MEN AT EVERY EXIT TO THE
FEASTING HALL...

I WILL
DO SO,
BARON
FALSTER.



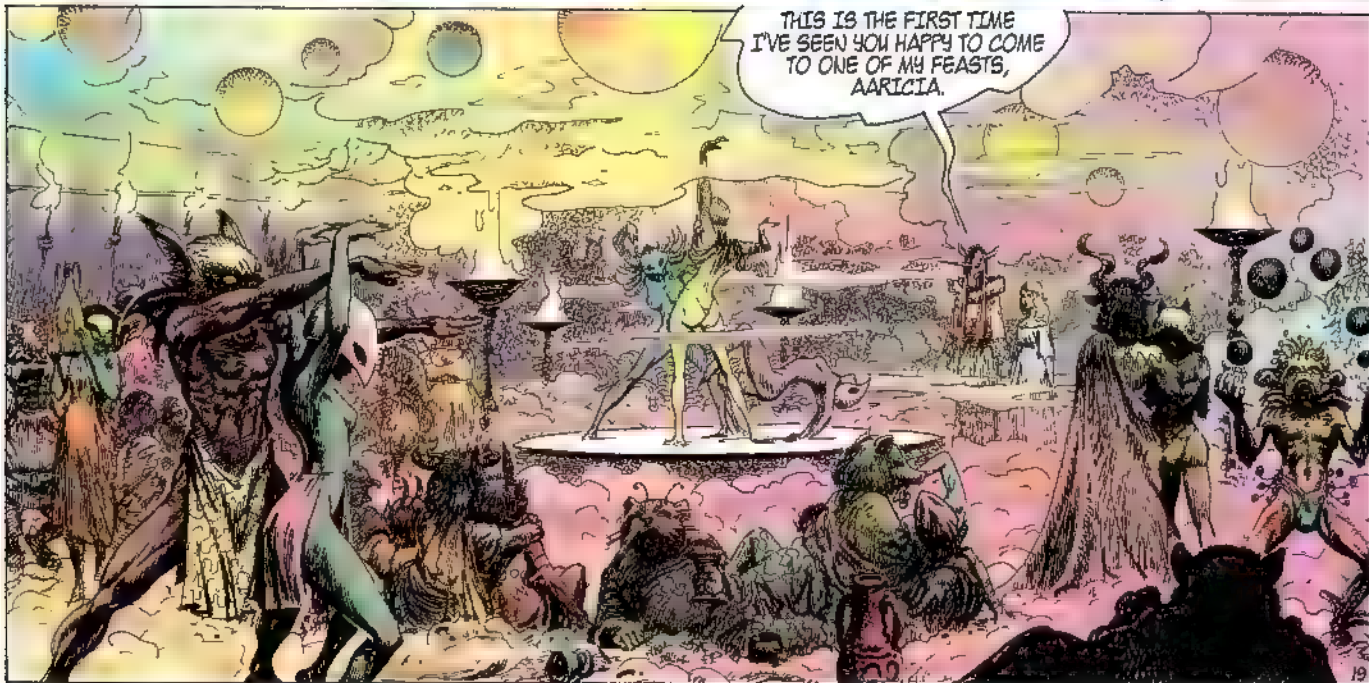
PHEW!
THEY'VE
GONE BY...

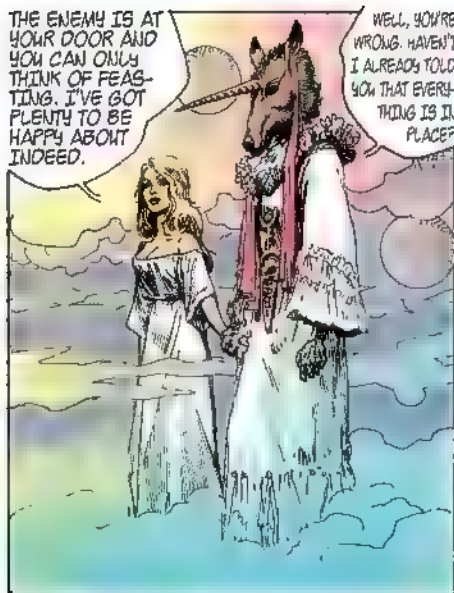


HUH?!
THERE'S
SOMEONE
IN THIS
ROOM...



THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
I'VE SEEN YOU HAPPY TO COME
TO ONE OF MY FEASTS,
AARICIA.





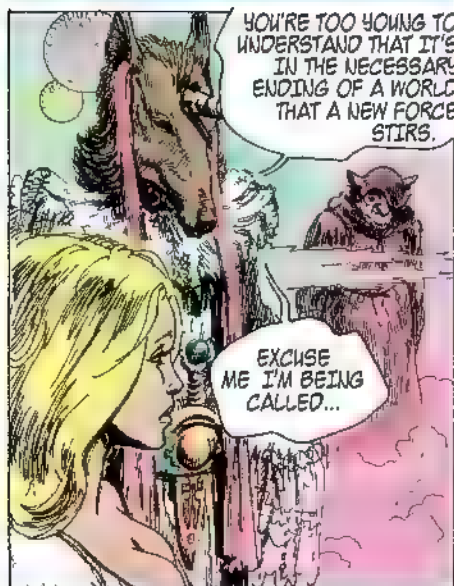
THE ENEMY IS AT YOUR DOOR AND YOU CAN ONLY THINK OF FEASTING. I'VE GOT PLENTY TO BE HAPPY ABOUT INDEED.

WELL, YOU'RE WRONG. HAVEN'T I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE?



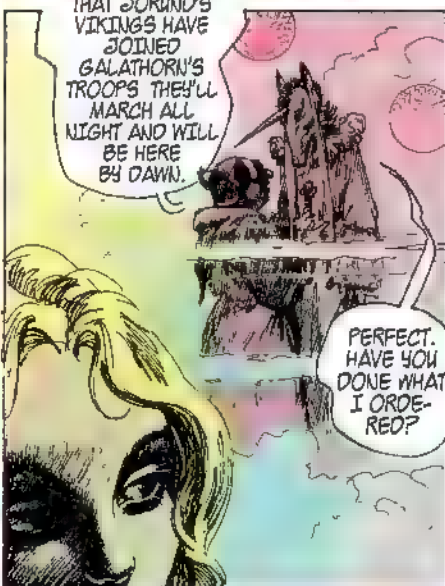
MY PEOPLE HAVE DEFEATED YOUR ARMY, SHARDAR. AT MOST, YOU HAVE A HUNDRED OR SO GUARDS LEFT SO IT CAN'T BE THAT "ARMY" THAT YOU'RE COUNTING ON TO DEFEND YOUR PALACE, CAN IT? IT'S THE END FOR YOU.

HHMM... THE END. THERE ARE SO MANY POSSIBLE MEANINGS TO THIS WORD.



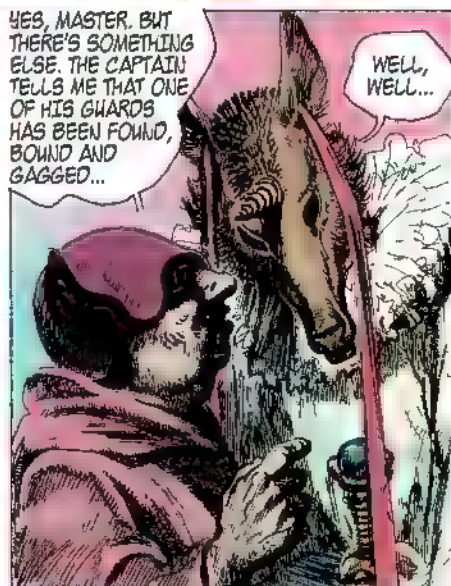
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S IN THE NECESSARY ENDING OF A WORLD THAT A NEW FORCE STIRS.

EXCUSE ME I'M BEING CALLED...



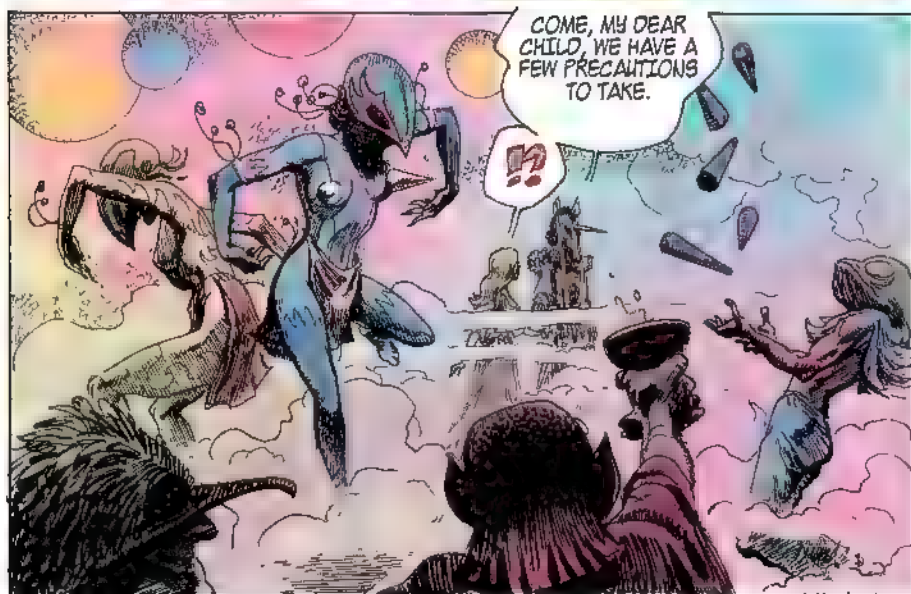
OUR SPIES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT JORUND'S VIKINGS HAVE JOINED GALATHORI'S TROOPS THEY'LL MARCH ALL NIGHT AND WILL BE HERE BY DAWN.

PERFECT. HAVE YOU DONE WHAT I ORDERED?

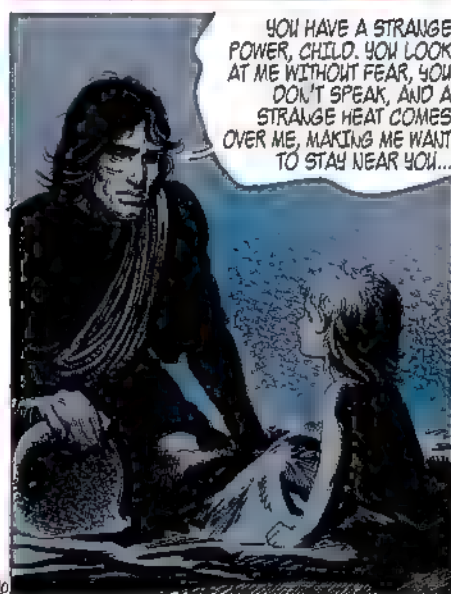


YES, MASTER. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. THE CAPTAIN TELLS ME THAT ONE OF HIS GUARDS HAS BEEN FOUND, BOUND AND GAGGED...

WELL, WELL...



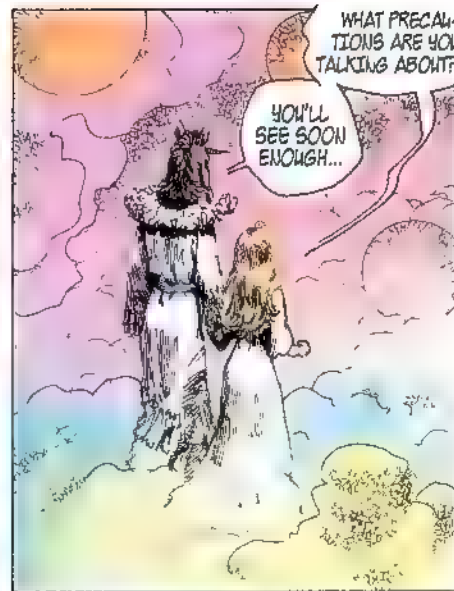
COME, MY DEAR CHILD. WE HAVE A FEW PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE.



YOU HAVE A STRANGE POWER, CHILD. YOU LOOK AT ME WITHOUT FEAR, YOU DON'T SPEAK, AND A STRANGE HEAT COMES OVER ME, MAKING ME WANT TO STAY NEAR YOU...



BUT I HAVE TO FIND
AARICIA, THE WOMAN
I LOVE, LOST SOMEWHERE
IN THIS PALACE.
GOODBYE, CHILD.



WHAT PRECAU-
TIONS ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'LL
SEE SOON
ENOUGH...



NOT SOON
ENOUGH FOR YOU,
SHARDAR. YOUR
TYRANNY IS OVER
AS OF TONIGHT.



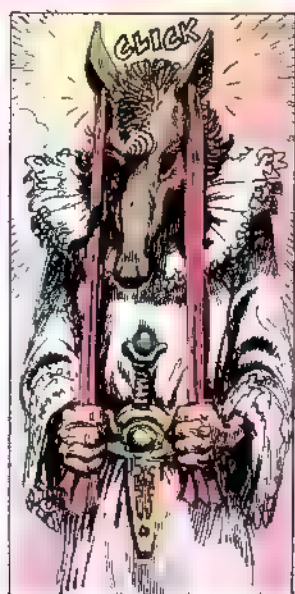
THERE'S NO POINT CALLING FOR HELP,
SHARDAR. NOBODY HERE WILL SAVE
YOU, AND YOUR GUARDS ARE ON OUR
SIDE. WHEN PRINCE GALATHORN GETS
HERE TOMORROW, WE'LL OFFER HIM YOUR
HEAD AS A SIGN
OF ALLEGIANCE.



WELL, THAT'S QUITE
AN AUDACIOUS YET
SUBTLE PLAN, BARON
FALSTER. IN IT I CAN
SEE YOUR USUAL
BRAVERY...

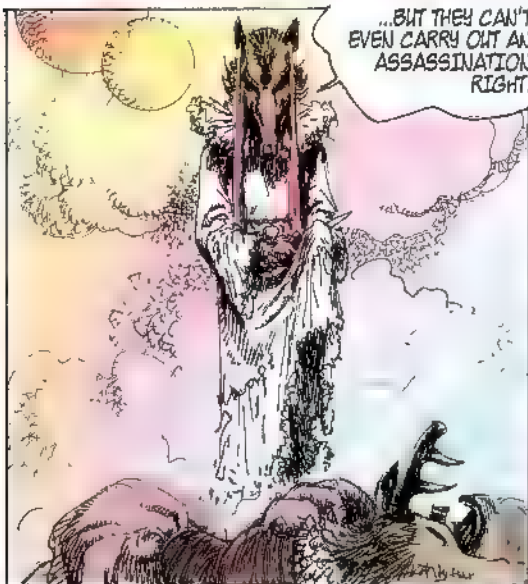


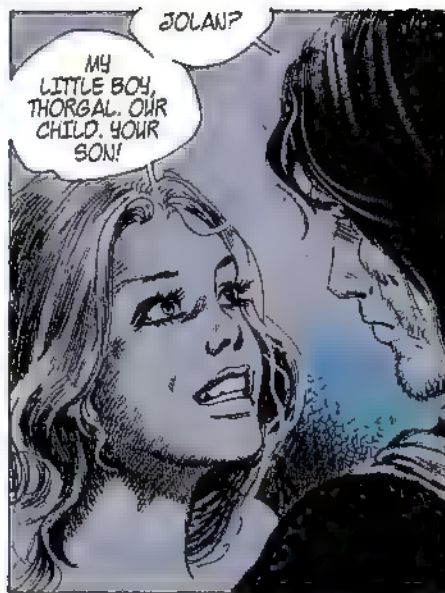
ENOUGH TALK,
TYRANT! LET'S
FINISH THIS!



CLICK



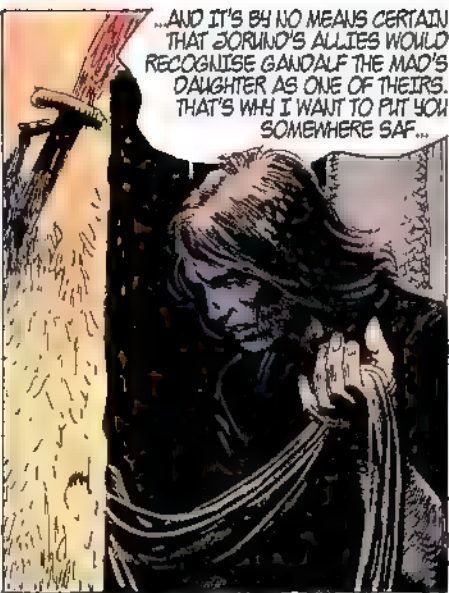




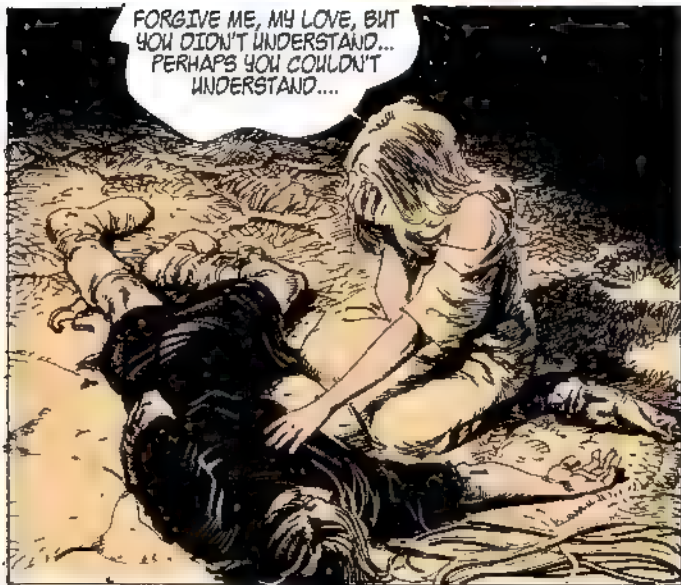
STAYING HERE WOULD BE AS DANGEROUS FOR YOU AS FOR ME. IN JUST A FEW HOURS, BREK ZARITH WILL BE UNDER ATTACK BY GALATHORN AND THE VIKINGS WHOSE SUPPORT I GARNERED FOR HIM...



...AND IT'S BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT JORUND'S ALLIES WOULD RECOGNISE GANDALF THE MAD'S DAUGHTER AS ONE OF THEIRS. THAT'S WHY I WANT TO PUT YOU SOMEWHERE SAF...



FORGIVE ME, MY LOVE, BUT YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... PERHAPS YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND....



WELL DONE, AARICIA: YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO.

OH! JOLAN...



SO THIS IS THE MAN... THE WHEELS OF DESTINY ARE SOMETIMES QUITE STRANGE.

SPARE HIM, SHARDAR, I BEG OF YOU. I... I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.



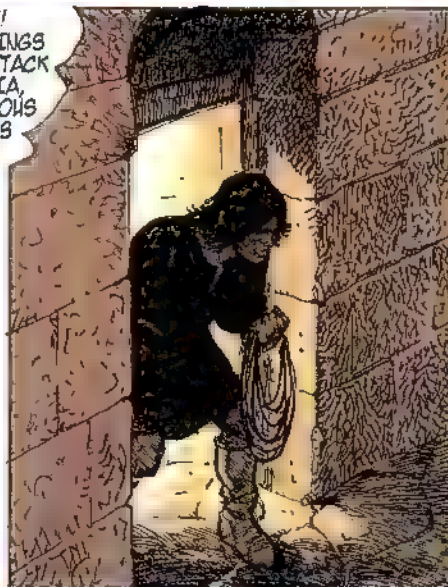
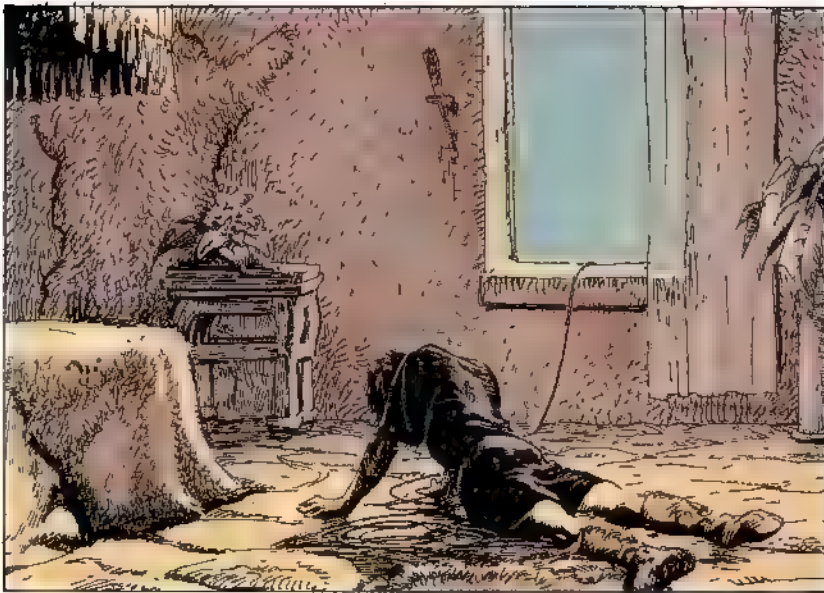
YOUR THORGAL IS VERY LUCKY TO BE LOVED SO MUCH... ALL RIGHT, I ACCEPT. FOLLOW US

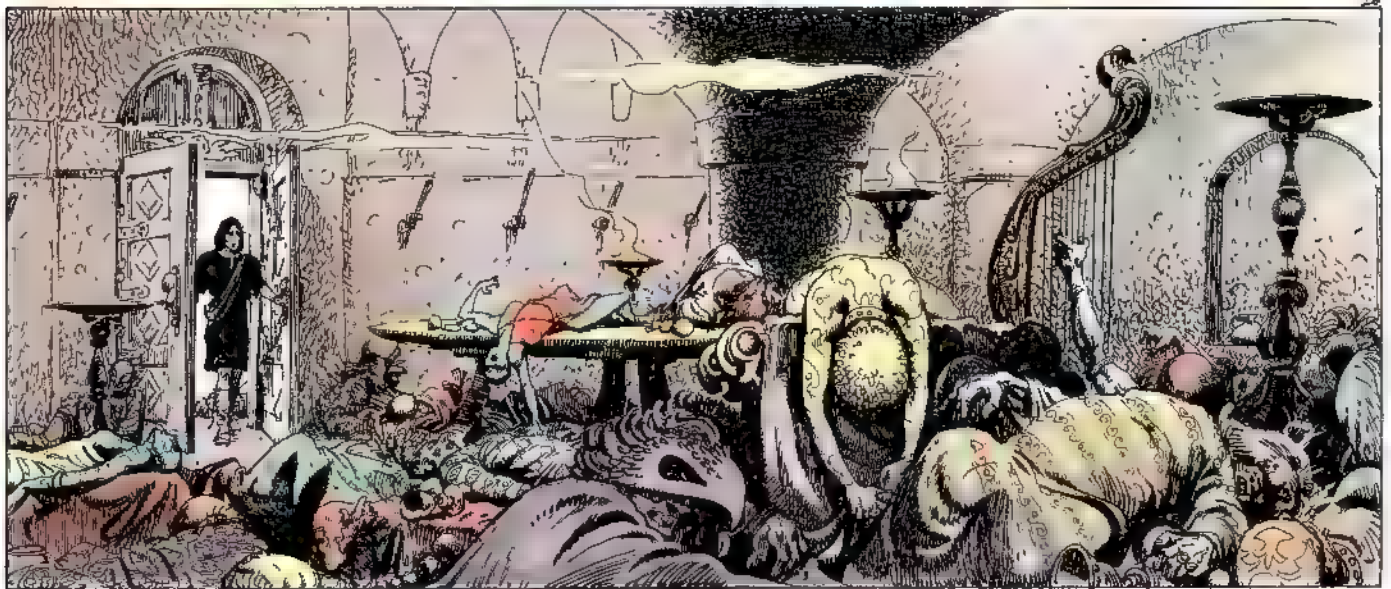
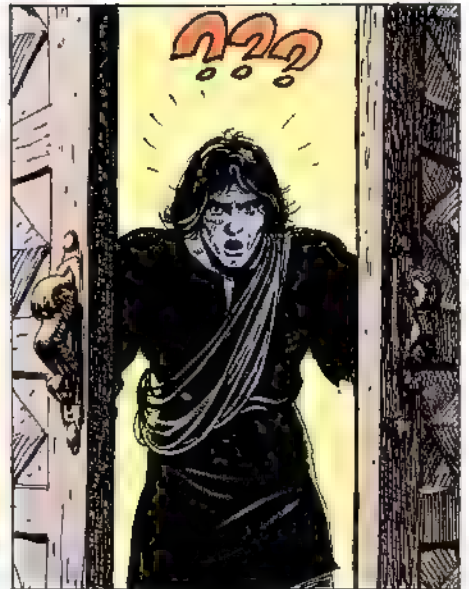
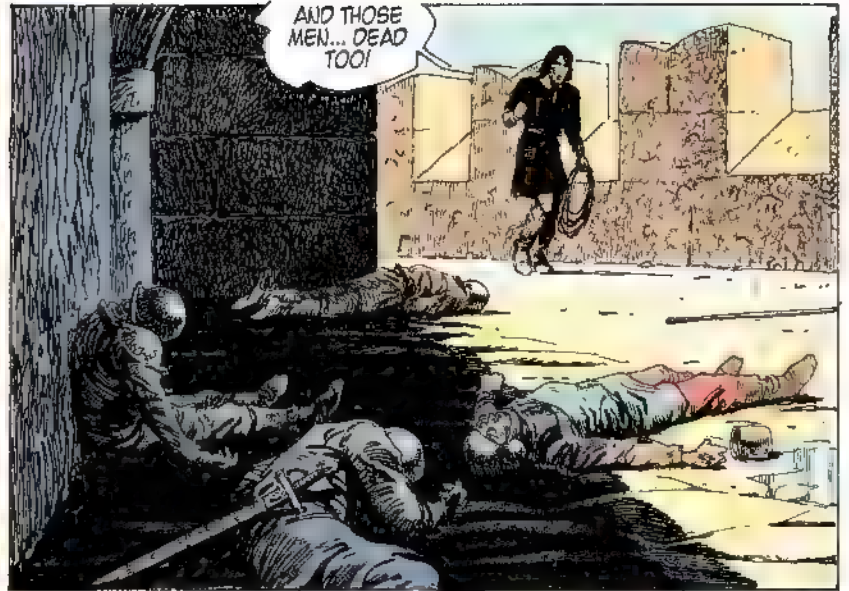
LET ME AT LEAST PUT HIM SOMEWHERE SAFE. THE FIGHTING...



WHAT FIGHTING? DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOURSELF THAT THE FEW MEN LEFT WERE INCAPABLE? THERE WON'T BE ANY FIGHTING, MY PRETTY CHILD. GALATHORN IS COMING TO GET HIS KINGDOM? WELL, THEN, I'LL GIVE IT TO HIM! **HAHAHA!**





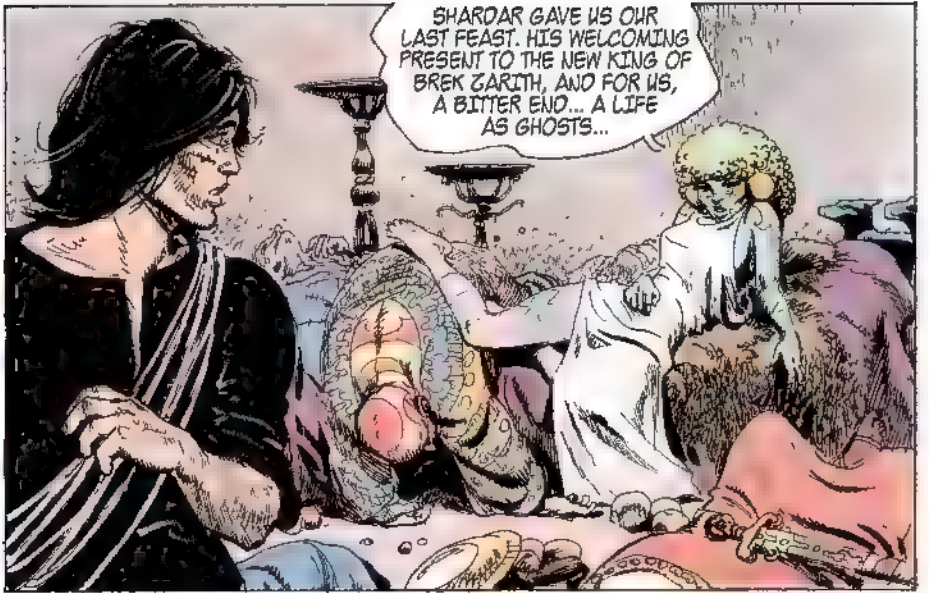


IT'S COMPLETELY INSANE!
WHAT CALAMITY COULD
HAVE DONE THIS?



YOU'RE NOT
MISTAKEN, HAND-
SOME BARBARIAN.
THEY'RE DEAD,
TOO... WE'RE ALL
DEAD!

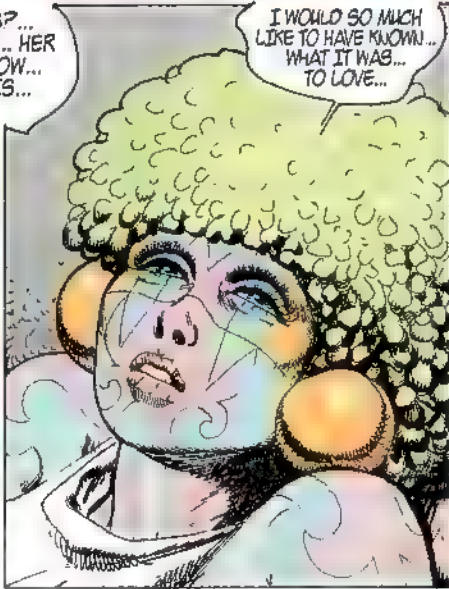
SHARDAR GAVE US OUR
LAST FEAST. HIS WELCOMING
PRESENT TO THE NEW KING OF
BREK ZARTH, AND FOR US,
A BITTER END... A LIFE
AS GHOSTS...



AARICIA?
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE
AARICIA IS?



THE PRINCESS?...
SO, IT WAS YOU... HER
SOUL MATE? HOW...
LUCKY... SHE IS...



I WOULD SO MUCH
LIKE TO HAVE KNOWN...
WHAT IT WAS...
TO LOVE...



BY ODIN'S
HELMET, WHAT
HAPPENED HERE?!

JORUND!
GALATHORN!



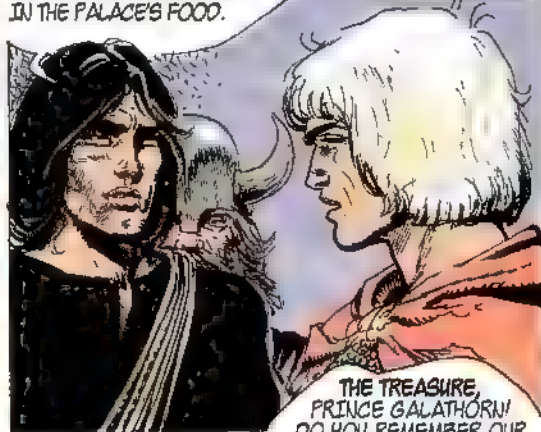
FINALLY SOMEONE
ALIVE IN THIS
TOMB PALACE! I'M
HAPPY THAT IT'S
YOU, THORGAL!

AND ME, TOO!
BUT HOW DID
YOU?

THE DRAWBRIDGE
WAS LOWERED. WE
GOT IN WITH NO RESIS-
TANCE, AND I CAN SEE
WHY. WHAT HAPPENED,
THORGAL?

I FEAR IT'S ALL TOO EASY
TO GUESS KNOWING THAT HE
COULDN'T DEFEND AGAINST
YOU, SHARDAR PREFERRED TO
FLEE AND ABANDON HIS
THRONE. BUT BEFORE HE LEFT,
HE POISONED EVERYONE
IN THE PALACE'S FOOD.

THAT MAN IS AN
ABOMINABLE
MONSTER! WE HAVE
TO FIND HIM AND
MAKE HIM PAY FOR
HIS CRIMES!...



YES. AND I SUSPECT THAT
HE HAS PROBABLY TAKEN
AARICIA AND MY SON WITH
HIM. TELL YOUR MEN TO
TOUCH NOTHING, NOR WINE.
NEITHER FOOD NOR
WINE. THEIR LIFE
DEPENDS ON IT.

AFTER A NIGHT'S
MARCHING WITH NO
FOOD OR WATER,
THAT WON'T MAKE
THEM HAPPY...



THE SOONER WE LEAVE
THIS CURSED PLACE,
THE BETTER. BUT
BEFORE WE LEAVE,
THERE'S ONE SMALL
THING LEFT TO SORT
OUT, MY DEAREST
ALLY...

WHAT'S
THAT?



THE TREASURE,
PRINCE GALATHORN!
DO YOU REMEMBER OUR
AGREEMENT? YOU GET
BREK ZARITH'S THRONE, I
GET ITS GOLD! SO, IF THE
NEW SIRE OF THE CASTLE
WOULD KINDLY SHOW
US THE WAY...





I LOST HALF
MY DRAKKARS
AND THAT'S
QUITE ENOUGH.
KEEP WALKING.

YOU DIDN'T DO
A LOT TO DESERVE
THIS BOOTY,
JORUND.



SO BE IT.
TAKE YOUR
PAY, VIKING!

OOOOH!



GET BACK, YOU LOT!
THIS GOLD BELONGS
TO NORTHERN MEN!



THIS GOLD
BELONGS
TO ME...



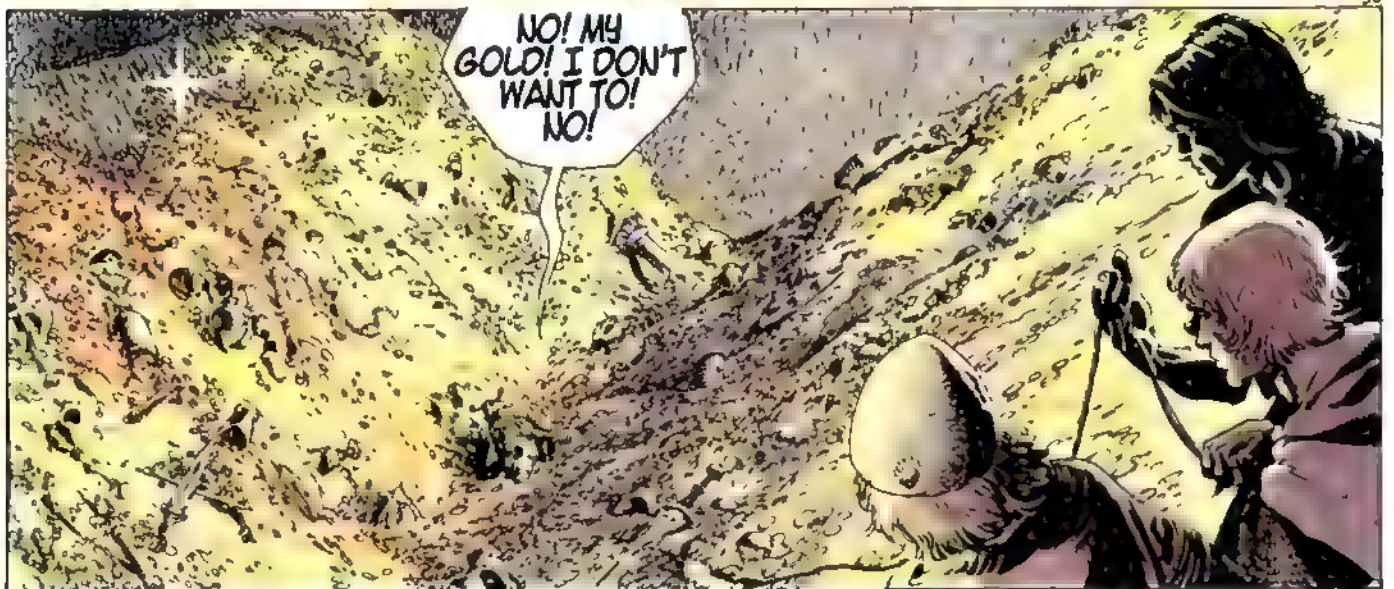
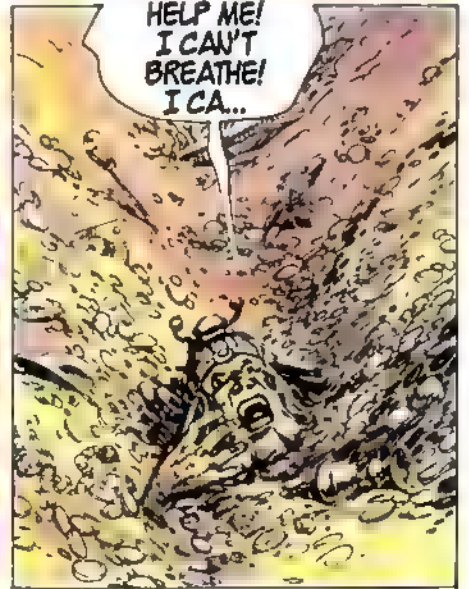
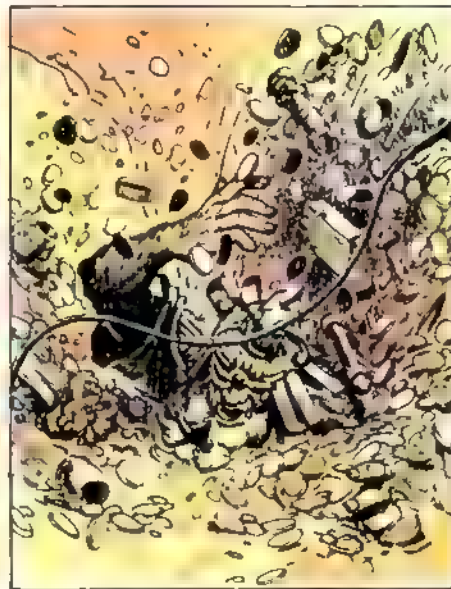
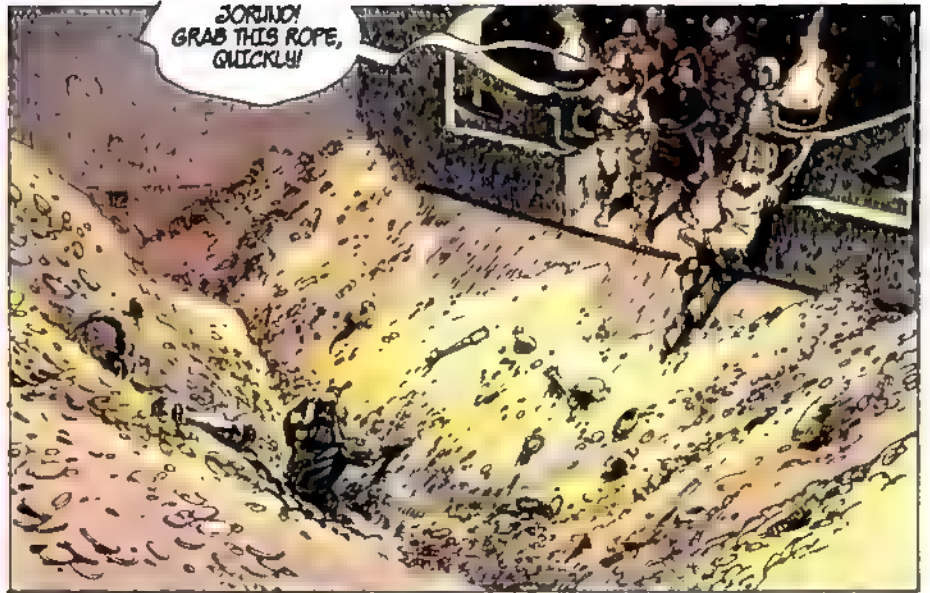
TO ME!
TO ME!
TO ME!



JORUND!
LOOK OUT!



?!?





THAT'S
AWFUL!

JORUND!...
JORUND!...

SAVE YOUR
VOICE, THORGAL.
THE BOTTOM OF THAT
PIT VANISHES INTO
THE VERY BOWELS
OF THE EARTH...

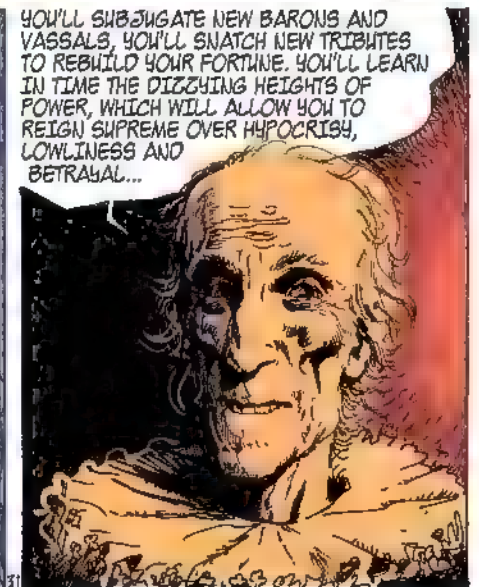


AN INGENIOUS
PRECAUTION, ISN'T
IT? I KNEW IT
WOULD BE USEFUL
ONE DAY. WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO PAY
YOUR VIKINGS WITH
NOW, POOR KING
GALATHORN? HAH!

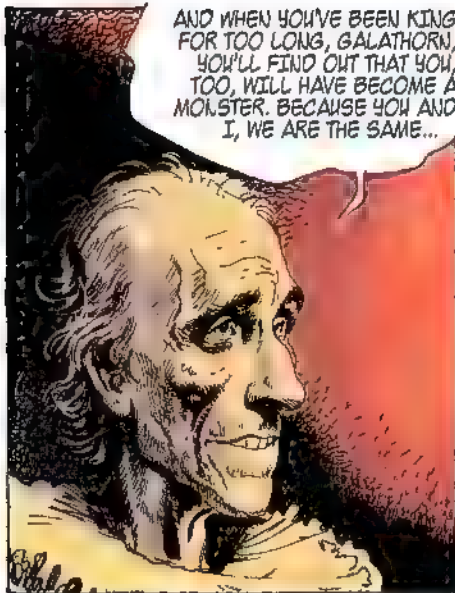
SHARDARI!
YOU ROTTEN
VERMIN!



WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT,
DEAR COUSIN? YOU WANTED TO WIN
BACK YOUR THRONE? WELL, IT'S ALL
YOURS. BREK ZARTH WAS NO LONGER
ANY FUN. I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS. OF
COURSE, YOU'LL FEEL A LITTLE LONELY
AT YOUR CORONATION... BUT ISN'T IT
BETTER THIS WAY? ALSO,
I TRUST YOU...



YOU'LL SUBJUGATE NEW BARONS AND
VASSALS, YOU'LL SNATCH NEW TRIBUTES
TO REBUILD YOUR FORTUNE. YOU'LL LEARN
IN TIME THE DIZZIFYING HEIGHTS OF
POWER, WHICH WILL ALLOW YOU TO
REIGN SUPREME OVER HYPOCRISY,
LOWLINESS AND
BETRAYAL...



AND WHEN YOU'VE BEEN KING FOR TOO LONG, GALATHORN, YOU'LL FIND OUT THAT YOU, TOO, WILL HAVE BECOME A MONSTER. BECAUSE YOU AND I, WE ARE THE SAME...



SHLACK

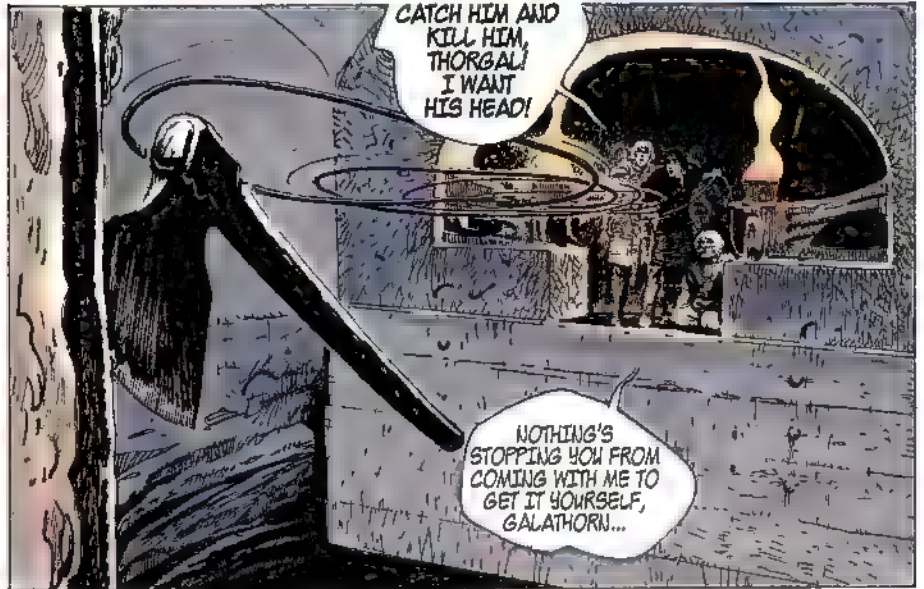


MAD! THIS LOON IS STARK RAVING MAD!

DOUBTLESS HE HAS TO BE, TO WANT TO BE KING.

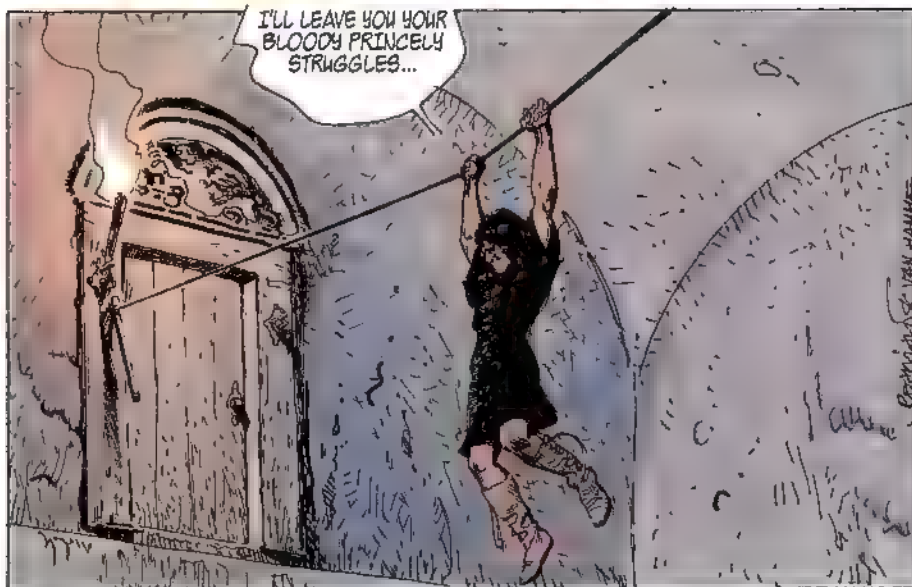


IT IS YOU WHO'D BE MAD FOR TRYING TO FOLLOW ME. YOU'D HAVE NO CHANCE OF SURVIVING. FAREWELL!



CATCH HIM AND KILL HIM, THORGAL! I WANT HIS HEAD!

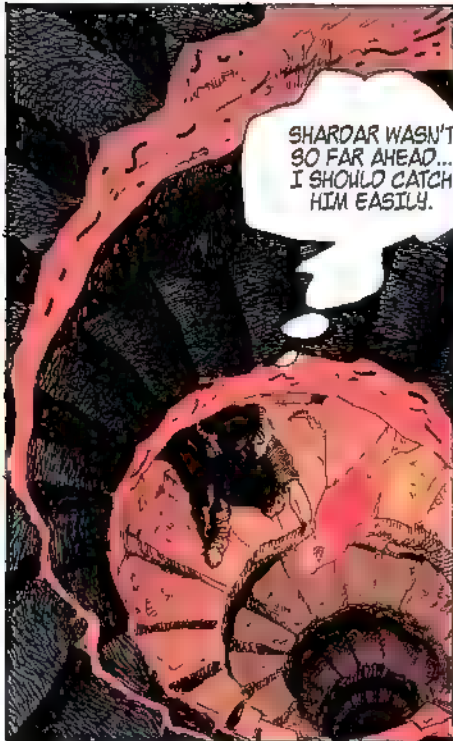
NOTHING'S STOPPING YOU FROM COMING WITH ME TO GET IT YOURSELF, GALATHORN...



I'LL LEAVE YOU YOUR BLOODY PRINCELY STRUGGLES...



MINE IS A SIMPLE AFFAIR BETWEEN MEN THAT STILL NEEDS SETTLING.



SHARDAR WASN'T
SO FAR AHEAD...
I SHOULD CATCH
HIM EASILY.



HOW FAR DOWN DOES THIS
ENDLESS STAIRCASE GO?
THE AIR IS SUDDENLY
SO COLD...



AT LAST!



STOP,
SHARDAR!
ARE YOU
TOO SCARED
TO WAIT?



SHAR...
???



BLAMMMM



I WASN'T SURE IF GALATHORN
FOLLOWED ME OR NOT, BUT
THAT ANSWERED THAT
QUESTION. SHARDAR, IT'LL
BE YOU OR ME!

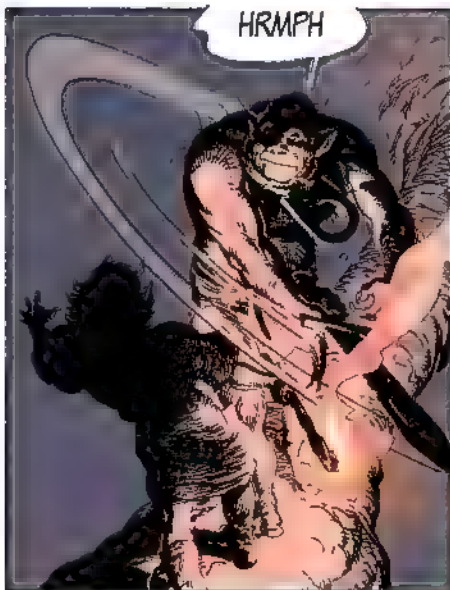


WHERE'S THE DANGER
THIS TIME? WHAT'S THE
NEW TRAP WAITING FOR
ME THROUGH HERE?...

??

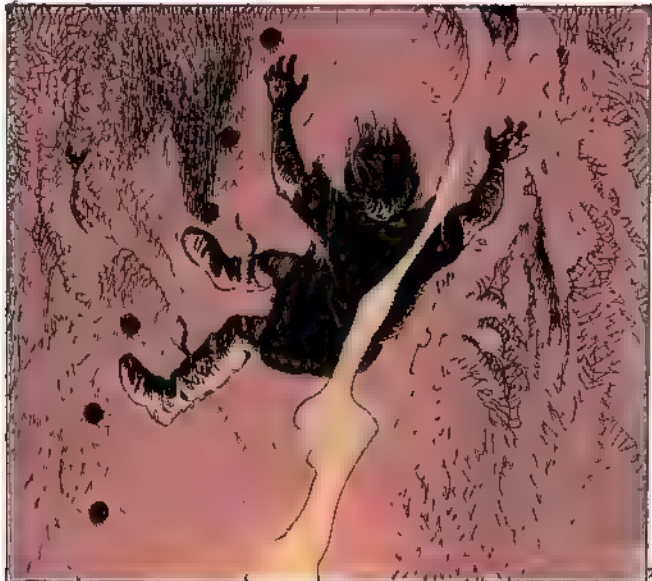
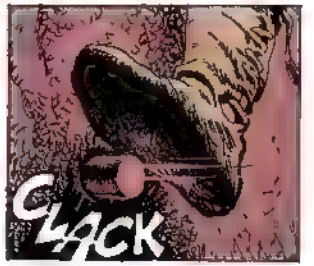


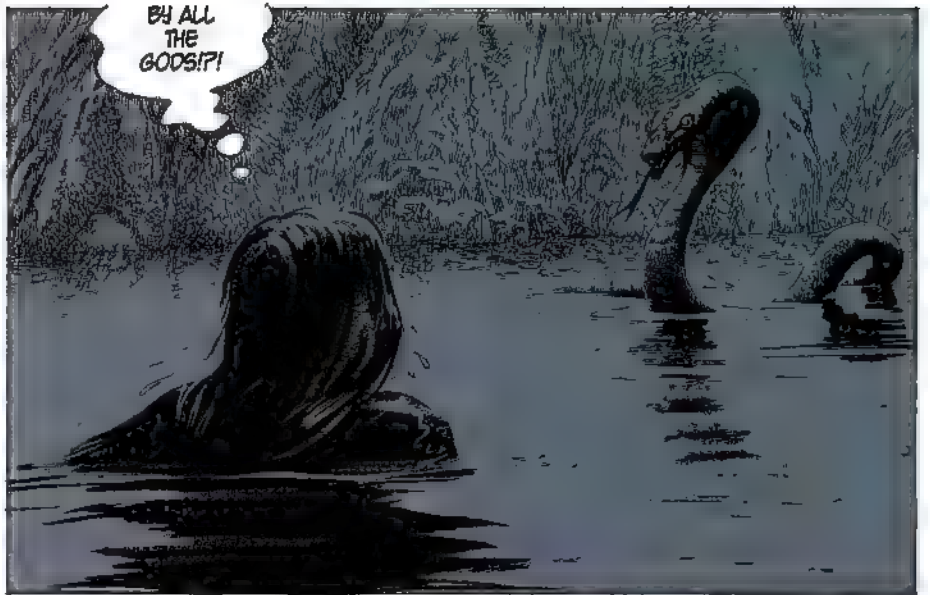
?!
!!





OBVIOUSLY
I HAVE TO EXPECT
A NEW TREACHERY
TO BEFALL ME...
BUT WHEN?...







HAHAHA!
HE'S GONE...
FAREWELL,
VALIANT
THORGAL!



AAAAGH!



THIS... THIS
CAN'T BE
POSSIBLE...

WHERE'S
SHARDAR, VER-
MIN? WHERE DID
HE RUN OFF TO?
ANSWER OR I'LL
BREAK YOU IN
TWO AND
THROW YOU
INTO THE
WATER!



DOWN THERE... THE CORRIDOR
ON THE RIGHT...

HOW DO
I KNOW YOU'RE
NOT LYING?



I... I SWEAR IT...
ON MY LIFE...

ON YOUR LIFE?
THAT'S CONVE-
NIENT...



SO GO AHEAD OF ME
TO SHOW ME THE WAY!

NO!



NOW HOW DO
I KNOW IF
IT'S THE RIGHT
CORRIDOR
OR NOT?

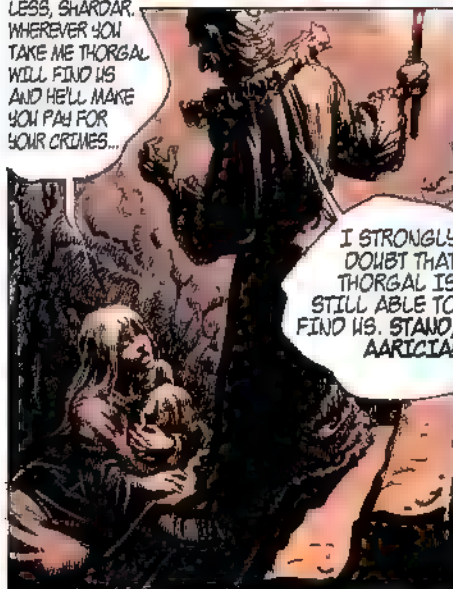




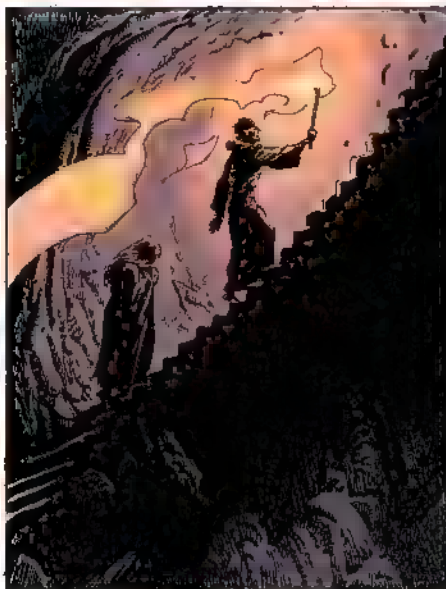
I... I CAN'T
GO ON...
I'M COLD...
I CAN'T
GO ON...



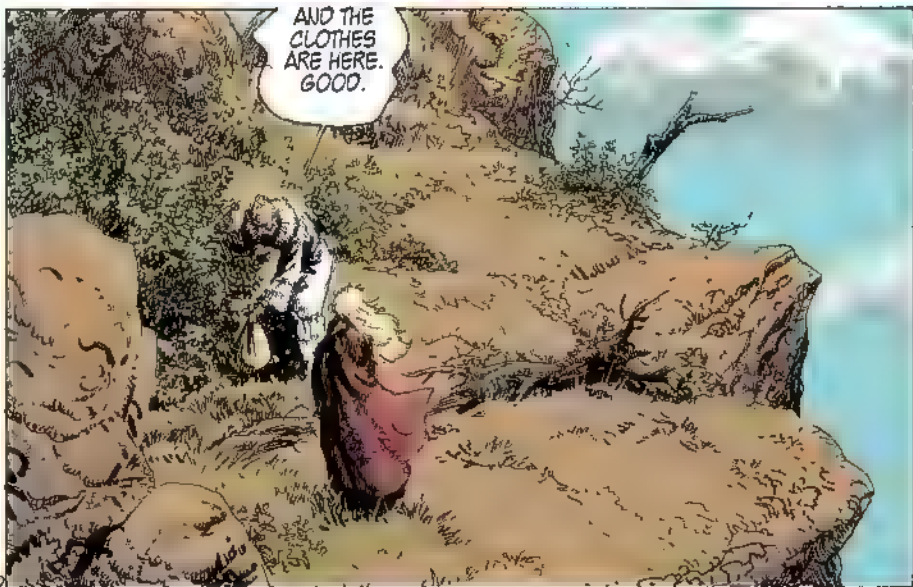
IT'S POINT-
LESS, SHARDAR.
WHEREVER YOU
TAKE ME THORGAL
WILL FIND US
AND HE'LL MAKE
YOU PAY FOR
YOUR CRIMES...



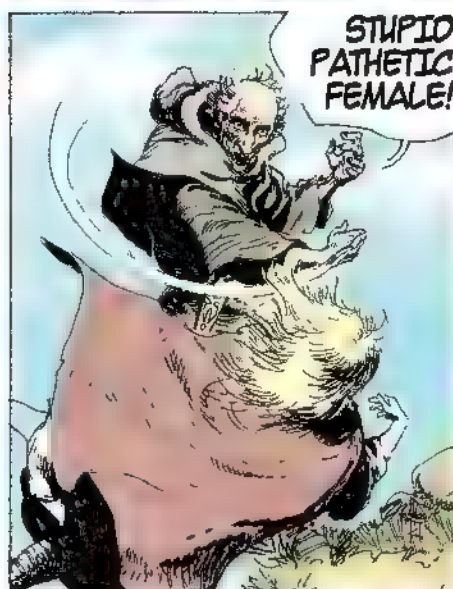
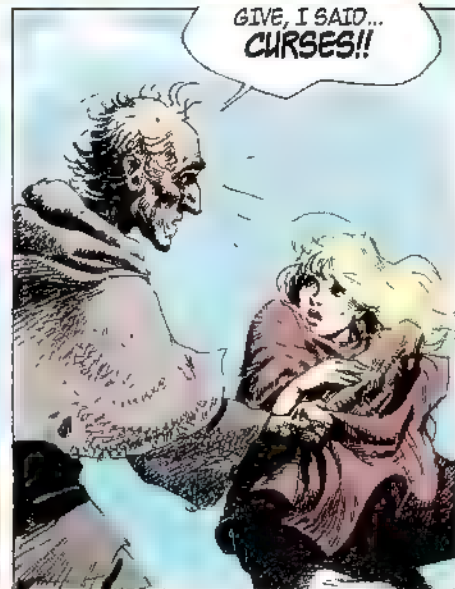
I STRONGLY
DOUBT THAT
THORGAL IS
STILL ABLE TO
FIND US. STAND,
AARICIA!



AT
LAST!



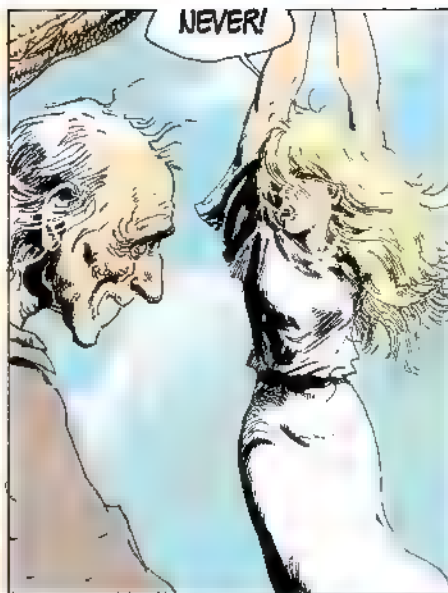
AND THE
CLOTHES
ARE HERE.
GOOD.



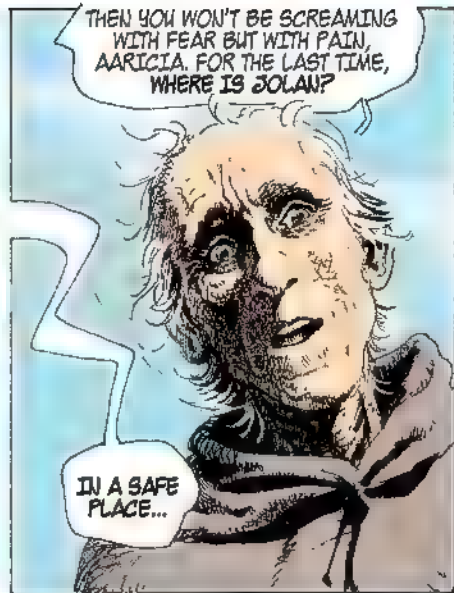




SINCE YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE HIDDEN YOUR SON, YOU'LL MAKE HIM COME HERE. I'LL MAKE YOU SCREAM WITH FEAR AND YOUR SHOUTS WILL BRING HIM HERE...



NEVER!



THEN YOU WON'T BE SCREAMING WITH FEAR BUT WITH PAIN, AARICIA. FOR THE LAST TIME, WHERE IS JOLAN?

IN A SAFE PLACE...



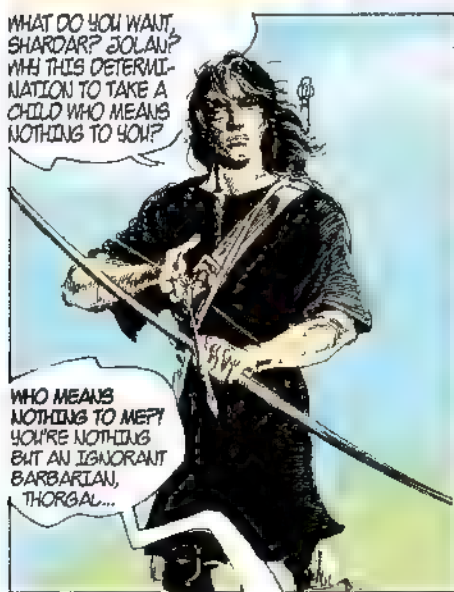
THORGAL!

??

I CAME TO FIND MY FAMILY WITH NEITHER WEAPON NOR HATE, SHARDAR. BUT YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR NOW. FREE MY WIFE OR I'LL SKEWER YOU.

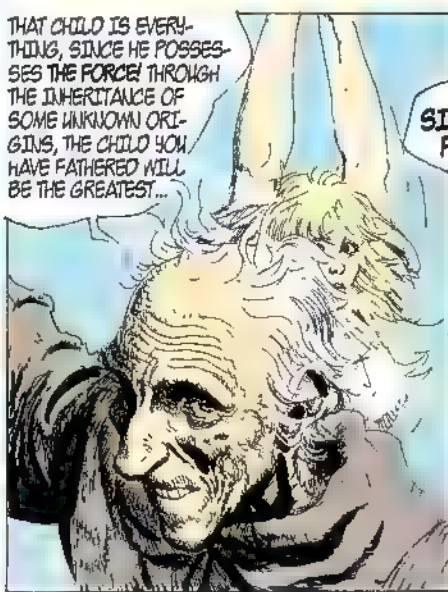


THAT'S RIGHT, SKEWER ME, POOR NAIVE IDIOT. KILL ME, AND MY LAST MOVE WILL BE CUTTING THIS ROPE.

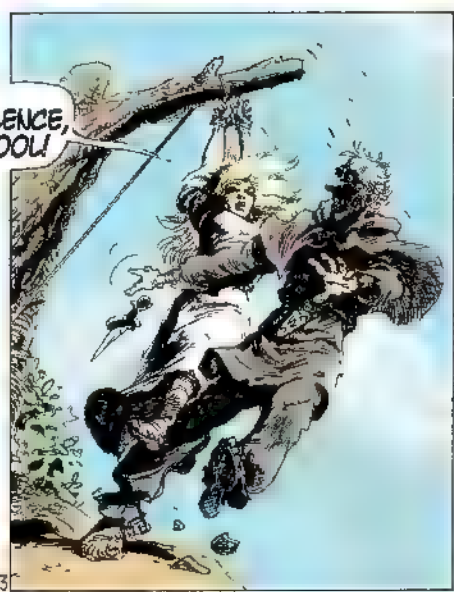


WHAT DO YOU WANT, SHARDAR? JOLAN? WHY THIS DETERMINATION TO TAKE A CHILD WHO MEANS NOTHING TO YOU?

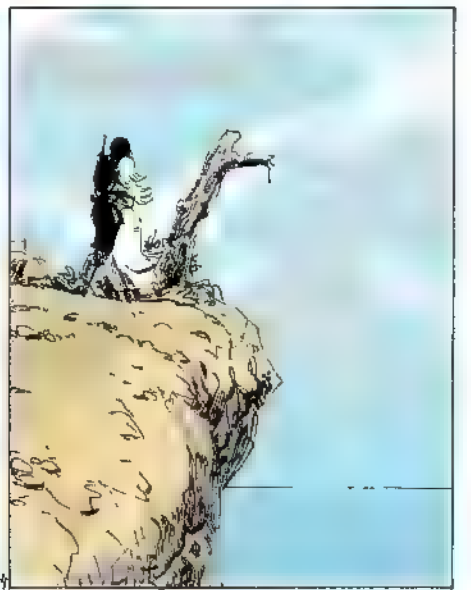
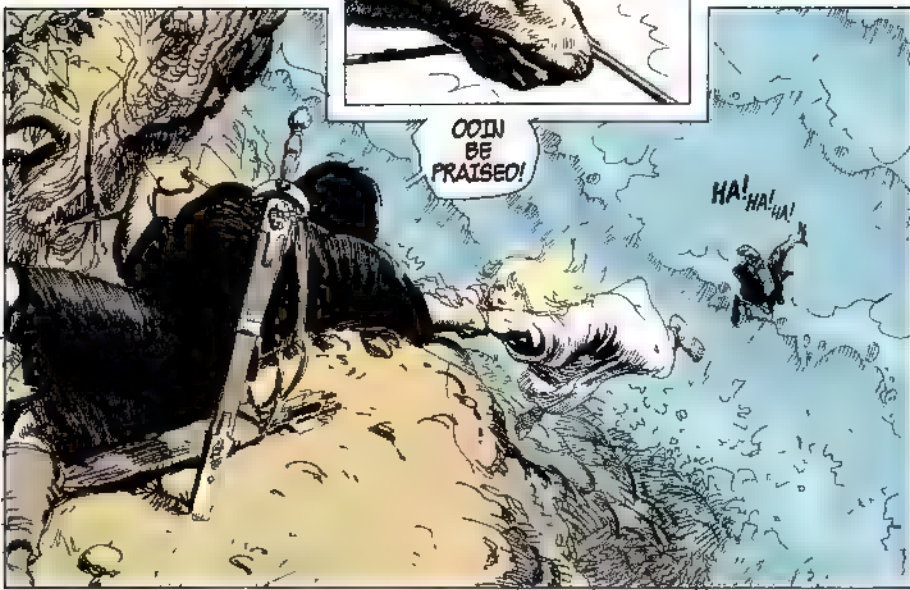
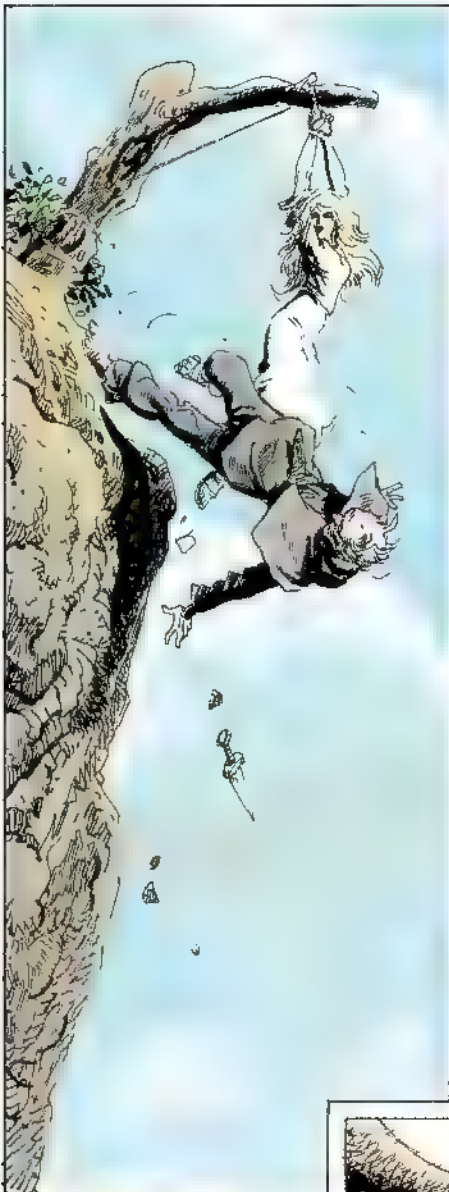
WHO MEANS NOTHING TO ME? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN IGNORANT BARBARIAN, THORGAL...

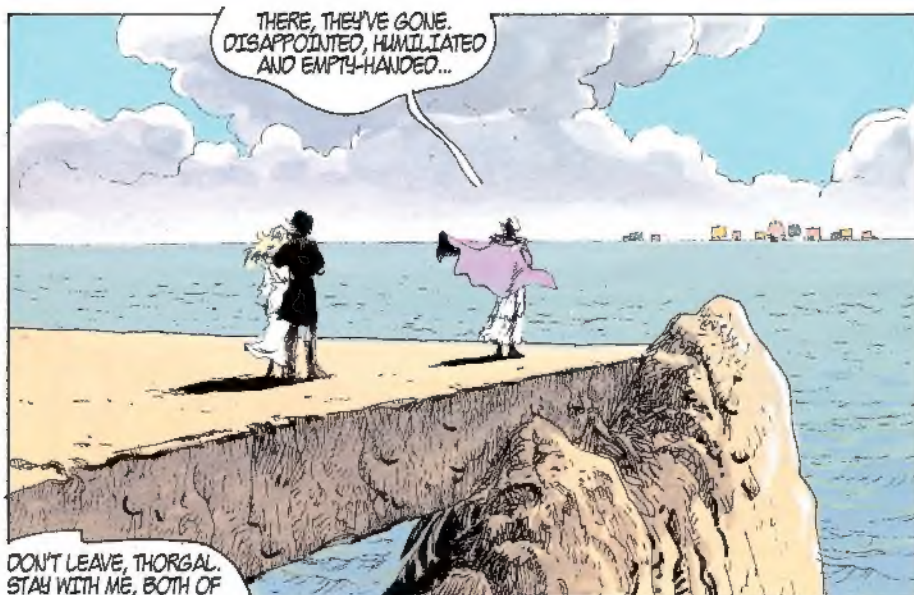


THAT CHILD IS EVERYTHING, SINCE HE POSSESSES THE FORCE THROUGH THE INHERITANCE OF SOME UNKNOWN ORIGINS, THE CHILD YOU HAVE FATHERED WILL BE THE GREATEST...



SILENCE, FOOL!





THERE, THEY'VE GONE.
DISAPPOINTED, HUMILIATED
AND EMPTY-HANDED...



...LIKE
ME.

DON'T LEAVE, THORGAL.
STAY WITH ME, BOTH OF
YOU. I REALLY NEED
SOME HELP TO MAKE
BREK ZARTH INTO A
KINGDOM WORTHY OF
ITS NAME.



IT'S USELESS INSIS-
TING, GALATHORN. MY
DEBT TO YOU IS PAID;
I OWE YOU NOTHING
MORE. I'VE FOUND A
ROWBOAT. WE'RE
LEAVING IN
AN HOUR.



TO GO WHERE? I BEG YOU TO
RECONSIDER, THORGAL. I'M NOT
ASKING YOU TO SERVE A TYRANT
LIKE SHARDAR. I'VE WON BACK MY
LEGITIMATE THRONE AND I WANT
TO BE A FAIR KING.

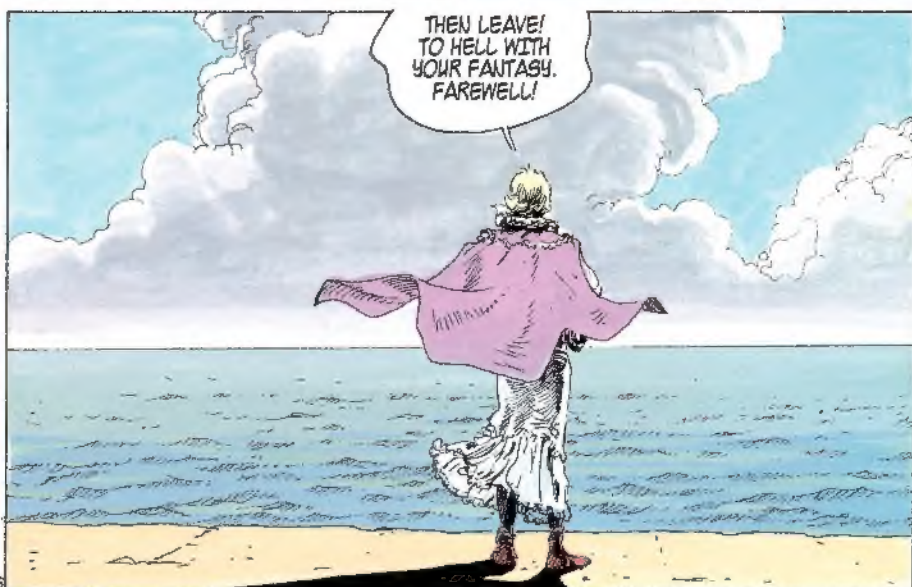
FAIR?
LEGITIMATE?



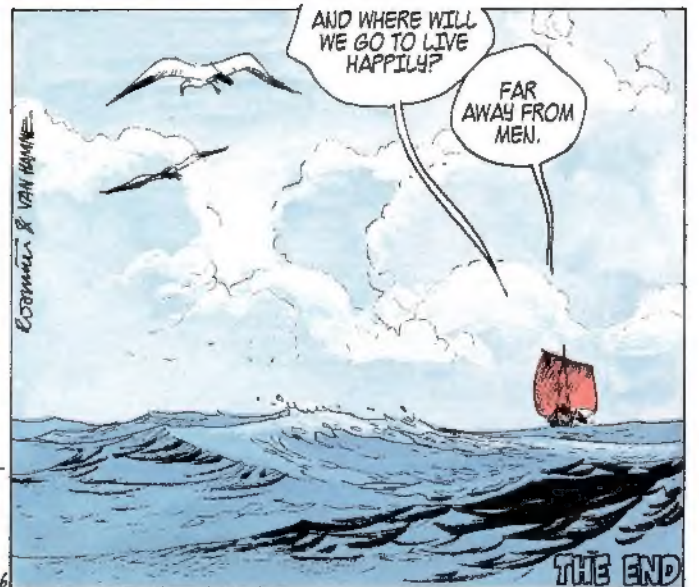
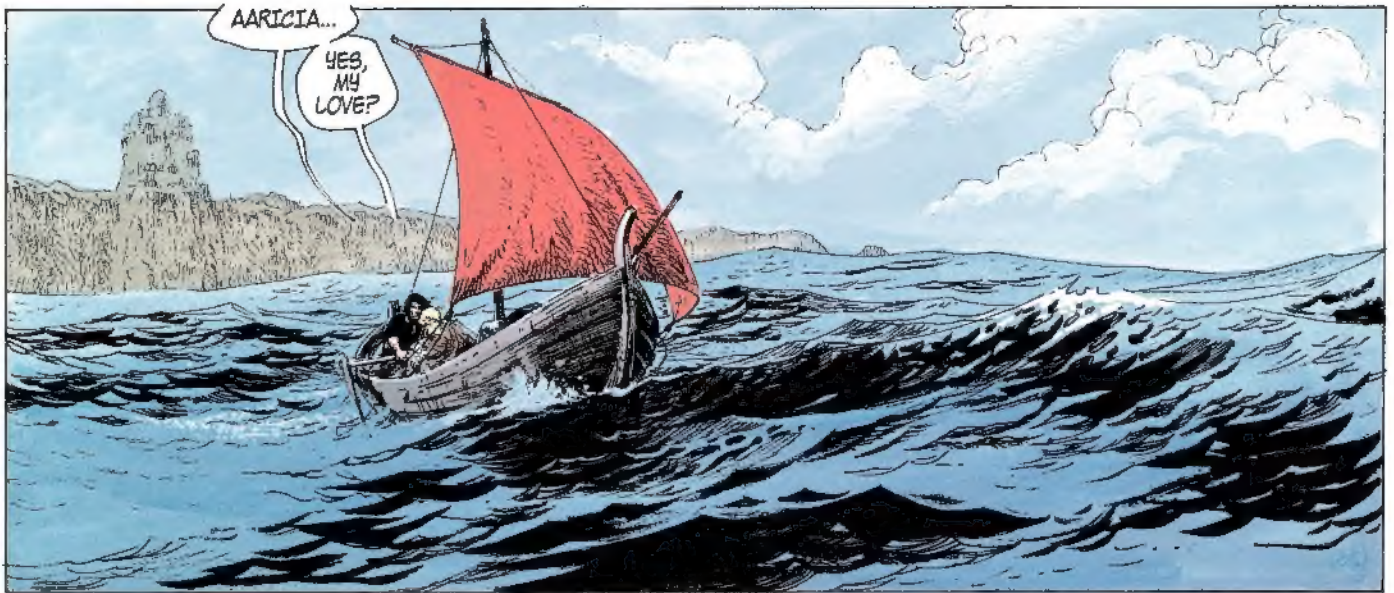
HOW CAN IT BE LEGI-
TIMATE FOR A MAN TO RULE
SUPREME OVER OTHER MEN?
WHAT WILL IT MATTER TO
YOUR SUBJECTS TO
HAVE A NEW MASTER? ...
THEY'LL NEVER BE
ANYTHING BUT
SUBJECTS.



AARICIA AND I ARE NOT
LOOKING FOR POWER OR FOR-
TUNE, BUT SIMPLY THE FREEDOM
TO ACT AS OUR HEART TELLS US.
AND THAT FREEDOM,
GALATHORN, WE WON'T
FIND IN A KINGDOM
LIKE YOURS.



THEN LEAVE!
TO HELL WITH
YOUR FANTASY.
FAREWELL!



This two-volume book includes:

③ Beyond the Shadows

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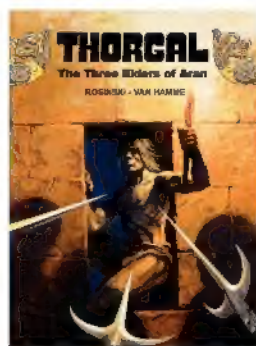
THORGAL

THE GODS HAVE PUT A MAN TO THE TEST

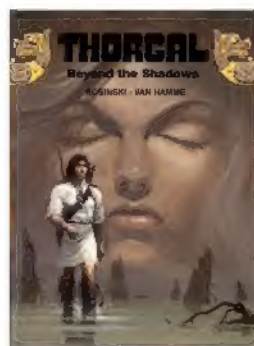
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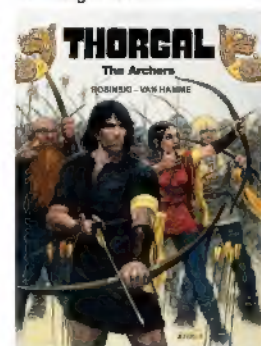
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